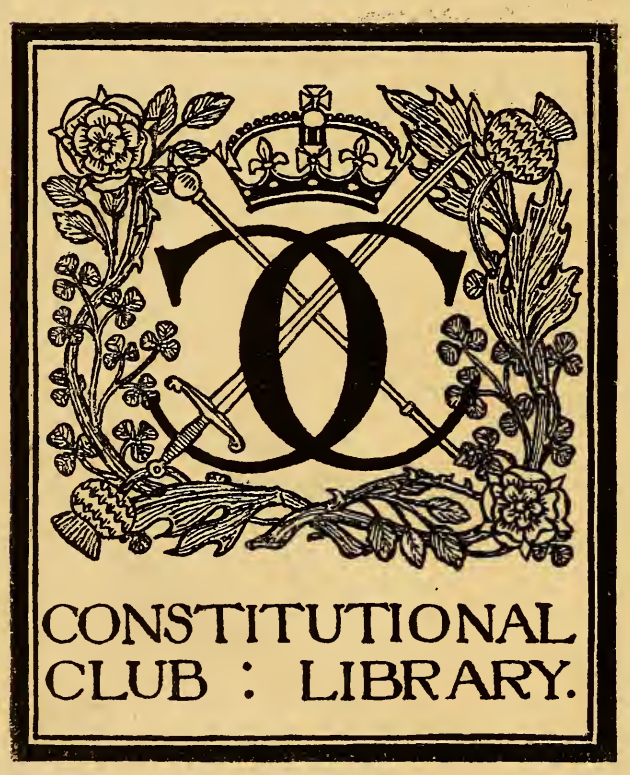

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"Burking"
selling bodies for
medical experiments

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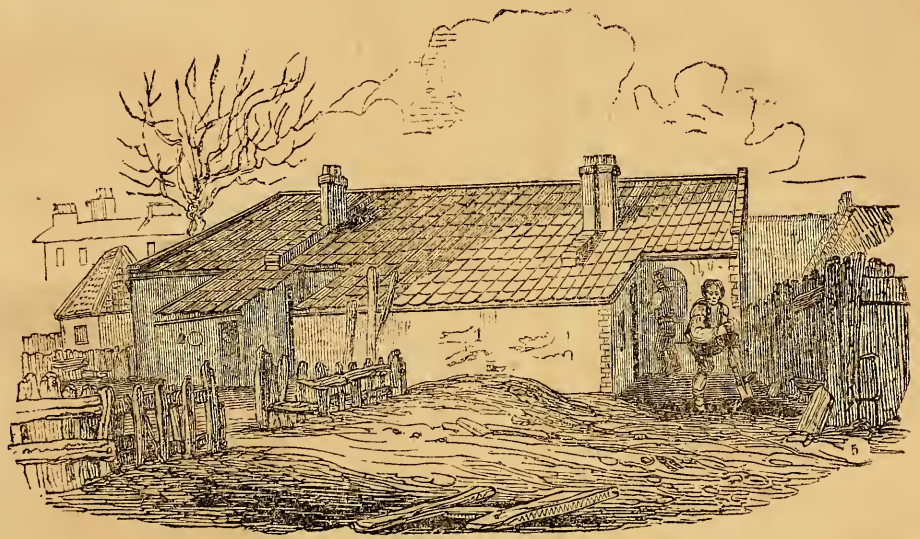

BACK OF BISHOP'S HOUSE AND GARDEN.

No. 1, Bishop's House.—2, Williams' House —3, Place where a woman's clothes were found.—
4, Place where clothes belonging to a boy were found.—5, The Well in which the
unfortunate victims were suspended.

THE

TRIAL,

SENTENCE, AND CONFESSIONS,

OF

BISHOP, WILLIAMS, AND MAY,

AT

THE OLD BAILEY, LONDON, ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1831,

FOR THE

MURDER

OF

CARLO FERRARI, AN ITALIAN BOY;

RESPITE OF MAY;

Execution of Bishop and Williams;

TOGETHER

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF MANY CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH THE PERIOD OF THEIR EARLY LIFE.

Front View of Bishop's House.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY C. F. PITMAN, 48, GUTTER LANE.
B. STEILL, 20, PATERNOSTER-ROW.
1831.

INTRODUCTION.

THE great interest excited in the metropolis by the discovery of the horrible crimes, the perpetrators of which have been found guilty by a jury of their countrymen, and have since forfeited their lives on the scaffold, has induced the Compiler of this pamphlet to send forth to the public a true account of the whole proceedings, from the first discovery of the body to the passing of the murderers from this earthly scene into the presence of their Maker. The account here related has been obtained from a source, the authenticity of which cannot for a moment be doubted; and the sketches of the various parts of the premises where these murderous practices have been carried on have been taken on the spot by an artist engaged expressly for this work.

The "Times" newspaper of the 3d of December, 1831, in speaking of the dreadful nature of the offence, says, "What a fearful picture does it present of the depravity of human nature! The present is a new era in the history of crime,—at least, the crime, if it before existed, was not known to exist: even a word has been introduced into its

nomenclature, which was but a short time ago unknown, and which is, as we should hope, doomed to wear out by the extinction of the flagitious offence which it designates. From *Burke*, the first detected perpetrator of the deadly deed, "burking" (a term meant to express the destruction of a human being by a new method, for the purpose of selling the body) has been derived. Men have in all ages committed murders from the incitement of irregular passions,—from hatred, jealousy, envy,—for the sake of obtaining the property of the deceased, or for the purpose of personal security of the murderer after the act; but to destroy the life of a fellow-creature from a calm calculation of the sum which the dead body would produce is a degree of depravity which it has been left to the present age to consummate, and which we should hardly have conceived possible, had not the fact been placed beyond all doubt by legal investigation, and transferred to our legal records. Nay, the most hardened homicides have been generally accustomed to fly from those whom they had destroyed: they could not bear to look on the mangled members: an absurd, but perhaps an useful, superstition existed, that the body would bleed afresh if touched by him who had bereaved it of life. But here a close intercourse of the murderers with the murdered commences after life is extinct; he handles the rigid limbs, recommends them to the dissector, 'It is a fresh subject: it has never been in the earth!' Oh horror of hor-

rors! Oh! frightful degradation of the human character!"

The language here expressed must be felt by every human being, whose feelings are not yet become so hardened and depraved as those of the miserable wretches now no more. It appears that the crime for which they have suffered is not the first; for they have committed many of the same "dark die;" and had not their career been stopped by the fortunate circumstances that led to their detection in this instance, and which are fully set forth in the evidence produced on the trial hereafter given, God only knows where their murderous hands would have been stayed! That this dreadful traffic in human bodies has long been carried on by these villains, fully appears by their confession; and while there is a market for the disposal of their subjects, so long will there be found wretches to supply them.

This crime is of so horrible a kind, that a new name was obliged to be found, in order to distinguish it from that of plain murder; for these monsters appear to have formed a new trade on the same principle, and with the same degree of coolness, that a butcher would have killed an ox or a sheep, for the purpose of taking it to a common market, with this exception, that the "Burkites" were obliged to use some secrecy in the disposal of their commodity; and it is to be lamented that purchasers generally assist them in such secrecy, though our laws forbid any traffic in human flesh.

But horrible is the idea that life should be destroyed for the purpose of benefiting any science; better let the bodies of all felons who are executed, or die in prison after conviction, be given for the purpose of facilitating the study of anatomy in our hospitals; there are many ways that may, in fact must, be devised for the purpose of utterly abolishing a crime of so diabolical a nature as that of which we are now speaking. How frequently are bodies picked up a few miles at sea, or floated ashore on the coast of Britain, both foreigners and Englishmen, who are not known or recognized, why not let these be given up for the purpose of study, instead of being buried in a strange place, without a name? A small recompence given to the parties finding them would be an inducement to render such assistance to science, and for which all the world would thank them.

JOHN BISHOP.

THOMAS WILLIAMS.

JAMES MAY.

TRIAL, &c.

This trial having been fixed for Friday, the 2d December, 1831, at an early hour the entrances to the Court were besieged by crowds of persons, anxious to be present at the trial of the individuals accused of the horrid crime of "Burking." Every approach was so crowded as to render the effecting an entrance by those who had business a matter of considerable difficulty at half-past seven o'clock. The galleries, it was stated by the officers of the Court, had been completely taken over night by members of the nobility, and a guinea for a seat was said to have been repeatedly refused. The doors were opened at eight o'clock, and shortly after all the seats were occupied. The trial seemed to have excited great interest amongst the Gentlemen of the Bar, who attended in considerable numbers. Mr. Sheriff Pirie and the Under-Sheriff were indefatigable in their exertions to afford to every person proper accommodation.

The Counsel engaged for the prosecution were Messrs. Adolphus, Clarkson, and Bodkin; for the prisoners, Messrs. Curwood and Barry. Mr. C. Phillips was expected to have conducted the defence, but, having cases in the other Court, we understand declined, in consequence of this trial being likely to occupy the Court till 10 o'clock at night. Thirty-one witnesses were subpœned for the prosecution, and 22 for the defence. The whole of these parties were in attendance at eight o'clock, and conducted to a private room. One person, named Mortimer, who was to have been a witness for the prosecution, cut his throat, and now lies in a very dangerous state.

Mr. Sergeant Arabin took his seat on the bench at nine o'clock, when *John Bishop, Thomas Williams,* and *James May* were placed at the bar, and arraigned. To the question, "Are you guilty of this charge, or not guilty?" they severally replied, "Not guilty," in an audible and steady tone of voice. The prisoners were then placed in the lower part of the dock whilst other prisoners were arraigned, and Mr. Sergeant Arabin proceeded with the trial of a case of theft. The appearance of the prisoners, as they were called up amongst a batch of other prisoners, showed no emotion which could indicate that they were charged with a more heinous offence than the pickpockets and housebreakers around them.

John Bishop was dressed in a smock-frock, and presented nearly the same appearance as an agricultural labourer, except that his expression of countenance, if we may so express it, was more tinged with metropolitan cunning.

Thomas Williams was dressed in a fustian jacket, with a brown handkerchief. He was rather a simple-looking man, under the middle size, and of extremely inoffensive appearance. He seemed to be as little affected as any of the spectators.

James May is a more athletic man, of wiry make, and firm, determined countenance. He was dressed in a fustian jacket with a yellow handkerchief, and appeared to his arraignment with a rather compressed lip and stern countenance.

Shortly before 10, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex took his seat on the bench, and scrutinized the prisoners very minutely as they were pointed out to him by Mr. Alderman Smith. His Royal Highness frequently used an opera glass. At 10 o'clock, Chief Justice TINDAL, with Mr. Justice LITTLEDALE and Mr. Baron VAUGHAN, entered the Court, and Bishop, Williams, and May were again placed at the bar. The names of the Jury were then called over, and the indictment read to them by Mr. Clark, the Clerk of the Arraigns

They were then addressed by Mr. BODKIN as follows :—"Gentlemen of the Jury, the prisoners at the bar are by this indictment charged with the wilful murder of Carlo Ferrier, otherwise called Charles Ferrier ; and, in a second count, they are charged with the wilful murder of a male person, whose name is unknown. To this indictment, they have pleaded Not Guilty. Whether they be so or not is the issue which you have to try."

Mr. ADOLPHUS proceeded to state the leading facts of the case to the jury. In doing so, he said that he did not feel it necessary to solicit their most serious attention to it, for he knew that it would receive such attention from them, being a case in which the three prisoners at the bar stood charged with the foul crime of murder, and one of which, as persons living in society, they must have heard a great deal for many days past. Aware, as he was, that they knew this to be a case of great and important interest, he felt certain that the gentlemen of the jury required no suggestions from him to induce them to pay the strictest attention to all its details ; and, having alluded to the interest which it excited out of doors, he was sure that he need scarcely remind them, that they should not allow themselves to be at all swayed by any thing that they might have heard with regard to this case previous to their entering that box, but that their duty there was merely to judge the case by the evidence which should be laid before them. When he spoke of their deciding on this case according to the evidence which should be laid before them, he begged to say that there was one point to which he was anxious to call their particular attention. In cases of murder, it often happened that the direct evidence of eye-witnesses could not be produced as to the blow which had been struck, or the injury which had been inflicted, and the infliction of which constituted the crime ; but it was settled by the constitution of this country, that in all cases of the kind, a jury might select from the circumstances of the evidence laid before them such facts as might produce a conviction in their minds as to the guilt of the prisoners charged with the offence. The application of the facts and cir-

cumstances of a case for such a purpose was, by the law of the land, vested in a jury constituted as they now were; and it was for them to decide according to the evidence which should be laid before them, as it appeared to their minds,—it was for them, after they had heard the great body of evidence which would be submitted to them in this case, to say whether the prisoners were or were not guilty of the heinous crime laid to their charge. If the facts which would be laid before them should produce on their minds a conviction of the guilt of the prisoners, he was sure that they would, without hesitation, pronounce a verdict which would consign some, if not all, of them to a certain, speedy, and ignominious death; and he was equally sure that if an opposite conviction was the result of the evidence, the jury would at once acquit the prisoners at the bar. Without further introduction, he would proceed to state to them the facts which had given rise to this painful and extraordinary inquiry, as he felt justified in calling it; for the murder to which it had reference did not appear to have been committed through any of those motives that have ordinarily occasioned the commission of such a crime in this country. It was not to gratify revenge for wrong done that the unfortunate victim in this instance had been deprived of existence. The minds of his murderers were stimulated by no passion of that description to the commission of the dreadful deed. Neither wealth nor the other common allurements which influenced the actions of wicked men under such circumstances, had impelled them to perpetrate this crime. Nothing but the sordid and base desire to possess themselves of a dead body, in order to sell it for dissection, had induced the prisoners at the bar to commit the crime for which they were now about to answer before a jury of their countrymen. The learned gentleman then proceeded to detail the facts of the case, as they were afterwards stated in the evidence subsequently produced. He dwelt in terms of well-deserved eulogy on the meritorious exertions of Mr. Thomas, the superintendent of Police, and of Mr. Corder, the vestry-clerk of Covent Garden, in prosecuting the inquiry which had led to the trial. He acknowledged that the case depended upon circumstantial evidence, but he contended that a large and well-connected body of circumstantial evidence was in many cases superior to the positive testimony of an eye-witness. The judgment of an eye-witness was in several instances liable to be deceived, but it was impossible that the jury, after putting all the circumstances of the case together, and weighing them seriously and deliberately, could be mistaken in their judgment. It was for them to say, after doing so, whether the prisoners at the bar were, or were not, guilty of the crime with which they stood charged. He concluded by repeating his confident expectation, that they would give to this important case the deep and serious attention which it deserved, and by expressing his complete reliance on the integrity and good sense of a British jury, which a long life of practice had left him no room to doubt.

William Hill, the first witness called, was then examined by Mr. Clarkson. The witness stated that he is porter to the dissecting-

room at the King's College. At a quarter before 12 o'clock on Saturday the 5th of Nov., the bell of the dissecting-room having been rung, he answered it, and having opened the door, he found the two prisoners at the bar, Bishop and May, there. He had known both the prisoners before. May asked him if he wanted any thing, and he said, "Not particularly." Witness asked what he had got. He said a male subject. Witness asked him what size. He said a boy about 14; and he demanded 12 guineas. Witness said they could not give that price, for they did not particularly want it; but if he would wait, he would acquaint Mr. Partridge, the demonstrator of anatomy, with the matter. He accordingly went to Mr. Partridge, who said he would see them. Witness then went back to them, and told them to go round to the place appropriated for them. When he had got them into the room appropriated for them, Mr. Partridge joined them. They could not agree as to the price. Mr. Partridge said that he would not give 12 guineas for the subject. Witness then heard May tell him that he should have it for 10 guineas. Mr. Partridge then left them, and went into the dissecting-room. The prisoners then asked witness how it was to be, and whether he would have the subject. Witness then followed Mr. Partridge, and in consequence of what Mr. Partridge said to him, he returned to the prisoners and told them that Mr. Partridge would only give 9 guineas for the subject. May said he would be d——d if it should come in for less than 10 guineas. May was tipsy at the time. On his going out to the door, Bishop, taking witness aside, said to him, "Never mind May, he is drunk. It shall come in for 9 guineas in the course of half an hour." They then went away. About a quarter past 2 o'clock on the same afternoon, they returned in company with the other prisoner, Williams, and a man named Shields. They had a hamper with them: Shields appeared to be employed as the porter for carrying it. May and Bishop carried the hamper into another room, while Williams and Shields remained where they were. On opening the hamper, a sack containing the body was found in it. May and Bishop remarked that it was a "good one," to which observation the witness assented. May, being tipsy, then turned the body very carelessly out of the sack. The witness perceived that the body was particularly fresh, and in consequence of what struck him with regard to the appearances of it, he went to Mr. Partridge. Previous to his doing so, he asked the prisoners what the subject had died of. They said that they did not know, and that that was no business either of his or theirs. Witness replied that it certainly was not. The appearances with regard to the body with which he was particularly struck were these:—It appeared different from a body that had been laid in a coffin. The left arm was turned up towards the head, and the fingers of the hand were firmly clinched. In consequence of the opinion which he formed from the appearance of the body, he went to Mr. Partridge, and detailed to him what he had seen, and what he thought about the matter. Mr. Partridge accordingly returned to the room where the body was lying, to see it. The prisoners had been removed from that room to the room into which they were originally introduced, and where the other two

men were also. Mr. Partridge, without seeing them, after seeing the body, went to the secretary's office. In the meantime, several of the gentlemen connected with the college saw the body, and their suspicions were also excited. Mr. Partridge having returned to the place where the prisoners were, showed them a 50*l.* note, and told them that he must get that changed, and that then he would pay them. Mr. Partridge having pulled out his purse while speaking to them, and there being some gold in it, Bishop said, "Give me what money you have, and I shall call on Monday for the remainder." May proposed that Mr. Partridge should give him the 50*l.* note, and he would go out and get it changed. Mr. Partridge, smiling, said, "Oh, no," and then left them. The prisoners remained waiting after Mr. Partridge had gone. In about a quarter of an hour, Mr. Mayo, the Professor of Anatomy at the College, came down with Mr. Rogers, the police inspector, and a body of police, and the prisoners were taken into custody. Before that took place, and while witness was in the room with Bishop, Bishop said to him, "Pay me only eight guineas in the presence of May; give me the other guinea, and I will give you half-a-crown." The body was then delivered by witness to the police, together with the hamper and sack, and having accompanied them to the police station in Covent Garden, he saw them delivered into the hands of Mr. Thomas, the superintendent of police. Judging by his experience with regard to dead bodies, it was his opinion that this body had not been buried, or laid in a coffin. He observed that there was no saw-dust about the hair of it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Curwood.—The conversations which he had mentioned had been with Bishop and May only. Williams was not present at them.

Mr. Richard Partridge examined by Mr. Bodkin.—Witness is demonstrator of anatomy at the King's College. He was there on Saturday, the 5th of November. A body was brought there that day, and a communication was made to him about it by the witness Hill, about two o'clock in the afternoon. He accordingly went and looked at it. None of the prisoners were present at the time. The body externally exhibited some suspicious appearances, and it was those appearances that induced him to go for the police. The suspicious appearances were, a swollen state of the face, blood-shot eyes, freshness of the body, and the rigidity of the limbs. There was likewise a cut over the left temple. The lips were also swollen. There was nothing else in the external appearance of the body that excited his attention. After he examined the body, he did not recollect whether he went to the place where the prisoners were before he called in the police. He was certain, however, that he went for the police before the circumstance with regard to the 50*l.* note took place. On returning to the College, after going for the police, he shewed the 50*l.* note to May and Bishop, where he found them at the bottom of the stairs leading to the anatomical department. He then proposed to them that change should be got for the 50*l.* note, with a view to detain them until the police had arrived. On the following day, he made a more particular examination of the body at the police station in Covent Garden, where it lay. There were several

medical men present at the examination. Mr. Beaman was one. Externally the body presented the following appearances: the muscles were still rigid, but not so much so as they had been on the preceding day. There was a superficial wound on the temple, which did not injure the bone. There was not any other appearance of external injury; beneath the scalp, on the top of the skull, there was some blood effused. On opening the body, the whole of the contents of the chest and of the abdomen were found to be in a perfectly healthy condition. The stomach was full, but he could not say what the contents of it were. The brain and its continuation, the spinal cord or marrow, were likewise examined, and were found to be perfectly healthy. In cutting down through the skin and muscles, at the back of the neck, in order to come at the bony canal, in which the spinal cord is contained, a quantity of coagulated blood was found in the interstices of the muscles, and on removing the back part of the bony canal some blood was found upon the membrane which envelopes the spinal cord. There was coagulated blood opposite to the muscles, where a blow might have been struck on the back of the neck. There was uncoagulated blood found within the rest of the bony canal which contains the spinal cord. The spinal marrow itself appeared to be perfectly healthy, and there was no other remarkable appearance about it. It was his opinion that the marks of internal violence which he had stated were sufficient to produce death.

By Mr. Justice Tindal.—Witness believed that the appearances of internal violence to the spinal marrow had been caused by a blow, or some other species of violence inflicted on the back of the neck.

Examination continued by Mr. Bodkin.—It was the opinion of witness that the blow of a stick on the back of the neck might have caused such appearances. He would not positively say that such an injury would produce an instantaneous death, but he believed that it would cause a very speedy one.

Cross-examined by Mr. Curwood.—On the external examination of the body, he could not discover any thing that would have been sufficient to produce death. The extravasation of the blood on the spinal marrow might have produced death. He would not positively say that it did so, but his conclusion was that it did. He could only arrive at belief, and not at certainty, on the subject. He did not think that the appearances which he had mentioned could have been produced by pressure, or any other means besides a blow. At the same time, they might have been produced by a blow of something else, as well as of a stick.

Re-examined by Mr. Bodkin.—On examining the heart, he found it was empty, which was an unusual circumstance. The face, too, was swollen and flushed, and both those appearances (namely, the empty state of the heart and the swollen state of the features) have been found in persons who have died suddenly, but not from violence. They have been found in persons who have met with a sudden, but a natural, death; but the appearances about the spinal cord, and the coagulated blood at the back of the neck, have not been found in persons dying a natural death

Mr. George Beaman, surgeon, examined by Mr. Adolphus.—I am a surgeon to the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden. On Saturday night, the 5th of November, I first saw the body of the deceased. I examined it with other surgeons. The weather, I should remark, at that time was very favourable to the preservation of dead flesh. The body appeared to have died very recently. I should judge that it had died within 36 hours. The face appeared swollen, the tongue swollen, the eyes prominent and blood-shot, and the tongue was protruding between the lips. The teeth had been all extracted, the gums bruised, and portions of the jaw-bone had been broken and removed with the teeth. There was also the appearance of blood having issued from the gums. Judging from all those circumstances, I would say that the teeth must have been taken from the gums within two or three hours after death. I examined the throat, neck, and chest very particularly, and I found no external marks of violence there. On this occasion, I observed that there was a wound in the forehead over the left eyebrow. It was about three-quarters of an inch long, and it penetrated through the skin to the bone. A small quantity of blood had oozed from the wound, but that circumstance might have been occasioned by the body falling out of the sack after death. The blood was uncoagulated. I again examined the body on the following day (Sunday) about two o'clock in the afternoon, but I found no further marks of external violence. The limbs, which were decidedly stiff on Saturday night, were not so much so on Sunday. The appearances of the body were such, in my opinion, as to leave no doubt that it had not been regularly laid out. About eight o'clock on the Sunday evening, I examined the body, assisted by Mr. Partridge, and others. I washed the neck and throat with a sponge and water carefully; but I found no scratch or mark of violence there. On removing the scalp on the top of the skull, I detected some blood—about the size of a crown. Such an appearance as that must have been produced by a blow given during life. The brain was also examined, and its appearances were precisely such as Mr. Partridge has described. The body was then turned for the purpose of examining the spinal marrow, and on removing the skin on the back part of the neck, a considerable quantity of coagulated blood, I should think from three to four ounces, was found amongst the muscles there. That blood must have been effused while the subject was alive. On removing a portion of the spine, for the purpose of examining the spinal marrow, a quantity of coagulated blood was found lying in the spinal canal, which, by causing a pressure on the spinal marrow, must have produced death. The bones of the spine were uninjured. The appearance which I have described would be likely to follow from a heavy contusion on the spine, or from the blow of a heavy instrument. There was about an ounce of blood found in the spinal canal. The heart was empty, which is an unusual circumstance, and one that, in my opinion, denotes a sudden death. I mean by a "sudden," an instantaneous death, or nearly so—one that takes place in at least two or three minutes. The stomach contained a tolerably full meal, and the contents smelt slightly of rum. Digestion was going on at the time of death. I

should think that death occurred about three hours after the meal. On examining the coats of the stomach, after removing its contents for the purpose of having them analysed, I found them perfectly healthy. From the whole of my observations on the body, I ascribe the death to a blow given on the back of the neck. This observation I have seen verified from experiments which I have witnessed in animals, where the same appearances have followed that species of injury.

Cross-examined by Mr. Barry.—I found no external appearance of violence at the back of the neck. It does not, however, necessarily follow that a severe blow of a stick on the back of the neck would be followed by a contusion or external mark of violence. It would have produced such a mark if the boy had lived some time after the blow had been given. I agree with Mr. Partridge in the statement that a flushed appearance of the countenance and an emptiness of the heart have been found in cases of sudden death, where no injury has been inflicted. In the course of my practice, I never found the heart empty after death. I do not think that any blow on the top of the head would present the appearances which were found on the back of the neck. Any violence applied to the back of the neck itself, however, whether considerable or not, might produce it. I can hardly think that such appearances would be produced by the falling down of a person in a fit of apoplexy. I will not say that it would be impossible, supposing that his head fell against a hard projecting body. A fall on a hard projecting point might produce such appearances. I will not swear as to the time when the teeth were removed, but I think it highly improbable that twelve hours elapsed after death before their removal.

Re-examined by Mr. Adolphus.—Forming my opinion as to the best of my judgment and experience, I would say that the teeth were removed within two or three hours after death. I have never seen a person die of apoplexy in which the brain was not injured; but I believe that such cases have occurred in what is called serous apoplexy. There was no serum effused in this boy's brain, nor did it present any unhealthy appearance whatever. He was apparently about fourteen years old, and in no respect did he seem inclined to apoplexy.

By Mr. Baron Vaughan.—I have examined the bodies of many persons that have died of apoplexy, and have always found appearances to account for the death. There have been cases of serous apoplexy recorded, in which it is stated that no such appearances could be discovered. If the subject in this instance died of apoplexy, it did not present any appearance of it.

Mr. Frederick Tyrrell, examined by Mr. Clarkson.—I am one of the surgeons of St. Thomas' Hospital. I have heard the evidence of Mr. Beaman with regard to what he found, and the conclusions that he came to; and in all material points I agree with him. I have never known a case of serous apoplexy in which the appearances on the brain did not sufficiently denote its occurrence. I have been always able to ascertain that a quantity of fluid has been effused in what is termed serous apoplexy, and that is sufficient to

denote death. I am a lecturer on anatomy and physiology in St. Thomas' Hospital, as well as a surgeon to that institution.

By Mr. Baron VAUGHAN.—The appearances described in the spinal canal might have been produced by violence, without there being marks of violence on the skin.

John Earle Rogers, examined by Mr. BODKIN.—I am an inspector of police. On Saturday, November 5, I received the body and the hamper from the witness Hill, and gave them into the custody of Mr. Thomas, the superintendent.

John Wilson, a police-officer, sworn.—I apprehended the prisoners at King's College. May resisted a great deal, and struck me, because I would not let him and Bishop talk together.

Joseph Sadler Thomas, examined by Mr. ADOLPHUS.—I am superintendent of the division of police, letter F. On the afternoon of Saturday, November 5, from certain information which I received, I despatched Rogers and Wilson to the King's College. They returned with May and Williams. Before them, Bishop and Shields were brought to the station-house. Rogers also brought the body, sack, and hamper. The body was placed in the back room in the station-house, with the hamper. The prisoners were all together, in the outer room. I asked May what he had to say, for he was charged with having come into the possession of the subject in an improper manner. He replied, "I have nothing at all to do with it; the subject is that gentleman's," (pointing to Bishop.) "I merely accompanied him to get the money for it." I then asked Bishop whose it was; and he said, that it was his, and that he was merely removing it from Guy's Hospital to King's College. I then asked Williams what he knew about it. He replied that he knew nothing about it, and that he had gone with them to King's College to see the building. I asked Bishop in the first instance what he was, and his answer was, "I am a b——y body-snatcher." I think that all the prisoners at the time, Bishop and May especially, were labouring under the effects of liquor. May was carried into the station house on all fours, and with his smock frock over his head. The body was taken out of the hamper in my presence, and placed on the table. It struck me as the body of a person that had recently died. I perceived that the teeth had been extracted from it. In consequence of information, I went on the following Tuesday to Mr. Thomas Mills, Newington causeway, and received twelve teeth, which I now produce. I also went, previous to going to Mr. Mills', to No. 3, Nova Scotia Gardens; and in the back room, ground-floor, found a trunk now produced. On the 20th of November, I went to the same cottage, and making a further search, I found a hairy cap in the front parlour, amongst some dirty linen. I now produce it. I also found a tin can there. Mr. Thomas also produced the sack and hamper in which the body had been brought to the station-house, in Covent-garden.

Henry Lock examined.—I was, in November, waiter at the Fortune of War public-house, Giltspur-street. On Friday, November 4, I saw the prisoners there at eleven o'clock in the morning. They had some drink, and went away together about twelve o'clock.

There was a strange man with them. About three o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, they came again, and remained until about five, and then all three went away together. About eight o'clock the same evening, they all returned, with another man, who appeared to be a coachman. Before the coachman left, one of the prisoners said they had had a ride. About nine o'clock, May went to the bar with something in a handkerchief, which proved to be teeth. I saw him pour water upon the handkerchief, and rub it with his hand. He afterwards opened the handkerchief, and I saw the teeth. I observed to him that they appeared to be young ones, and were worth 2s. May said they were worth 2*l.* to him. The prisoners shortly afterwards left. On the following morning, I saw Bishop and Williams about eight o'clock, accompanied by Shields. Bishop, addressing Williams, asked, "What shall we do for a hamper?" Williams made no answer. Bishop requested Shields to go over to the hospital (St. Bartholomew's) to get a hamper, but he refused to go. Bishop then went himself for it, and shortly returned with a hamper. They then all left together, and I never saw them again until they were in custody.

FORTUNE OF WAR PUBLIC HOUSE,
Giltspur Street.

Thomas Wigley.—On the 4th of November, about half-past seven o'clock in the evening, I was in the Fortune of War public-house, when Bishop came in, and was followed in a few minutes after by May. I heard Bishop say, "What do you think of our new one? did he not go up to him well and collar him? was he not a game one?" May said, "I don't know what you mean." Bishop said, "That's all right." May saw me sitting in the corner of the room all the time. May got up and went out, and in a few minutes returned with a handkerchief in his hand, which he was rubbing with his hand. In a few minutes Williams came in, and Bishop observed, "Here he comes, I knew he was a game one." Bishop said to May, during the conversation, and before they went away, "You stick to me, and I will stick to you."

Cross-examined by Mr. Curwood.—I do not know what Bishop meant by saying to May, "What do you think of our new one? was he not a game one?"

James Seagrave, driver of a cabriolet.—On the evening of the 4th Nov., I was with my cabriolet on the stand in the Old Bailey. It was about six o'clock in the evening, and having put the nose-bag on my horse, I went into the watering house to take my tea. I was called out, and saw May and Bishop. May asked me if I wanted a job, and said he had a "long job." He took me on one side, and said he wanted me to fetch a "stiff 'un," which I understood to mean a dead body. I told him I did not know, but asked what he would stand; he said that he would stand a guinea. I said that I had not finished my tea, and that my horse had not done his corn. He said that we would take tea together. I went into the public house, followed by May and Bishop. They took their seats, and called for tea for two. Some person in the room jogged me by the elbow, and hinted that the men were "snatchers," and I determined not to go with them. I had previously determined not to go with them. After tea, I went out, and drove my cabriolet to the bottom of the rank. I afterwards saw May and Bishop going up the rank among the coaches, and I drove off, leaving them apparently making a bargain with the coachmen.

Cross-examined by Mr. Curwood.—I knew that the circumstances which I have mentioned took place on Friday, the 4th of November, because I had to attend on a summons that day, from 10 o'clock till 3, before the commissioners in Essex-street. There were four or five persons in the parlour at the watering house when May and Bishop were there.

Re-examined.—The conversation which he had with May took place outside the watering house.

Thomas Taverner, the waterman at the coach-stand in the Old Bailey, corroborated the evidence of the preceding witness as to the application of the prisoners May and Bishop to him for the hire of his cab.

Edward Chandler examined.—I was on the 4th of November a porter at the King of Denmark watering house, in the Old Bailey. May and Bishop came in with Seagrave, the cabriolet driver, and they had some tea and a pint of gin together. I observed May put

some gin into Bishop's tea, and Bishop asked him, "Are you going to *locus* me, or *Burke* me." I can't say whether it was *locus* or *Burke*. I knew May and Bishop before. I do not know what *locus* means.

Cross-examined by Mr. CURWOOD.—I cannot say whether Seagrave had part of the gin or not.

Henry Mann, a hackney coachman, examined.—On Friday, the 4th of November, about 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening, I was on the stand in Bridge-street, Blackfriars. May and a strange man came to me. May asked if I would take a fare, and go with him to Bethnal-green. I refused to go. I refused to go because I knew what May was.

George Gissing examined.—I am 12 years old. I go to school and to church. My Father keeps the Bird-cage public house, Crabtree-road, near Nova Scotia Gardens. On the evening of the 4th of November, about half-past six o'clock, I saw a yellow hackney chariot draw up opposite my father's house. It is very near Nova Scotia Gardens. I know Bishop's cottage in Nova Scotia Gardens. It is but a short distance from my father's house. I did not see who got out of the chariot. I afterwards saw the prisoner Williams standing on the fore wheel of the chariot, talking to the driver. The chariot waited ten or fifteen minutes. The door was open all the time. Williams went down Nova Scotia Gardens, and in ten or fifteen minutes, he returned and got into the chariot. Then I saw a strange man carrying a sack in his arms, and Bishop holding up one end of it. They put it in the chariot. Williams put out his hand to help it in. The sack appeared to be heavy, as if something heavy was in it. Bishop and the other man got into the chariot with Williams, and they drove up Crabtree-road and towards Shoreditch Church, on the road to the city. The strange man was not one of the prisoners, but he had a smock frock on. Bishop is believed to be Williams' father in law, and they kept their wedding at my father's house.

Thomas Trainer, another boy, corroborated the last witness' evidence. He saw the prisoners, Bishop and Williams, who were both known to him, on the occasion mentioned. Two of the men had smock frocks on. A woman, named Anne Channell, was present with witness at the time.

Anne Channell examined.—I was passing by the Bird-cage public house on the evening of the 4th of November. I saw a hackney chariot stop, and three men get out of it. They went down Nova Scotia Gardens. I did not remain there. Two of the men had smock frocks on. I did not notice them sufficiently so as to be able to know any of them again.

Thomas Davies sworn.—I am porter to the dissecting-room, Guy's Hospital. On Friday evening, the 4th of November, about seven o'clock, May and Bishop came to the hospital. May carrying a sack; I knew them before; they asked me if I wanted to purchase a subject; I declined; and they asked me if I would allow them to leave it in the hospital until the following morning. I acceded to their request, and locked the body up in a room during the night. Next morning, between 11 and 12, I saw May and Bishop in the

hospital. Having been out, I returned to the hospital, and ascertained that the body had been taken away. I had only seen a foot out of the sack, and I believed it was either that of a boy or a female; it was not large enough for that of a man. The sack produced is similar to that in which the body was.

Cross-examined by Mr. BARRY.—I only saw May and Bishop on that occasion. I never saw Williams until the other day.

James Weeks, assistant to the last witness, examined.—On November the 4th, saw Bishop and May bring the sack with a body in it to Guy's Hospital. The sack produced has a hole in it, and resembles that in which the body was brought. The sack was left at the Hospital all night. The following morning, Bishop, May, Williams, and Shields, came for the body, and I delivered it to them in the same state as I had received it. The night before, May and Bishop directed me not to let it go, unless they were both present. They took it away in a hamper, which they brought with them. Shields acted as porter, and carried the hamper. I believe the hamper now produced to be that in which they carried the body away.

Mr. J. Appleton, curator of Grainger's Anatomical Theatre, Webb-street, Borough, examined.—I know the three prisoners. On Friday, November 4, about half-past 7 o'clock in the evening, Bishop and May came and said they had a subject for sale. I asked what is was; they said it was a fresh subject. I asked whether it was male or female; they replied, a boy about 14 years of age; I declined to purchase it. The next morning they called to make the same offer, but I again declined it. They had not the body with them.

Mr. Thomas Mills examined.—Lives at No. 39, Bridge-house-place, Newington-causeway, and is a dentist. On the 4th of November, between nine and ten o'clock in the morning, May called and offered for sale twelve human teeth, six for each jaw. I observed that one of the front teeth was chipped. He offered the set for a guinea. It was then that I observed that one of them was chipped, as that lessened their value. I said that I would give 12s. for them, and I remarked, that they did not belong to one set. He said, "Upon my soul to God they all belonged to one head not long since, and that the body had never been buried." I gave him 12s. for the set. On examining them afterwards, I found that some part of the flesh of the gums was so firmly attached to them that I imagined they had been violently taken from the head. I found great difficulty in detaching it from them. I remarked to May that the teeth either belonged to a boy or a female. He replied that they had belonged to a boy between 14 and 15 years of age. Those are the teeth now produced, which I delivered to the superintendent, Mr. Thomas.

Cross-examined by Mr. CURWOOD.—I will swear that the expression used by May was not that the teeth were as fresh as if the body from which they had been taken never was buried.

Augustine Brun (examined through an interpreter) deposed, that he was acquainted with the Italian boy, Carlo Ferrari. Witness

brought him to this country about two years ago. Carlo stayed with him about six weeks. Has not seen him since the 28th of July, 1830. Was shown the body of a boy at Covent-garden station-house on the 19th of November. Recognized it to be the body of the boy Carlo; that is, to the best of his belief. Could not swear positively, the face was so disfigured, and the absence of the teeth so altered the usual expression of the boy's countenance. The hair, size, and form, perfectly corresponded. Had not seen the boy alive since July, 1830; could not, if he was dead. (A laugh.)

On cross-examination by Mr. Curwood, the witness said, that if he had not heard of the death of the boy, he should have given precisely the same evidence—namely, that he should have inferred from the general appearance of the body, and colour of the hair, that it was that of "my boy," Carlo Ferrari. If asked at once to whom the body belonged, he should have found difficulty in determining, in consequence of the disfigurement of the face.

CARLO FERRARI.

Joseph Paragalli, an Italian, obtained his livelihood by playing a street organ, and the pandean pipes. Knew the boy Carlo for the last two years, saw him last alive at half-past two o'clock, in the Regent's Quadrant, on the Saturday four weeks before he saw him dead at the station-house. Carlo had then a cage with two white mice about his neck; was sure that the boy whom he saw dead was the same whom he saw thus occoutred in Regent's Quadrant. (The cap was here put in witness's hands.) Would swear that to the best of his belief it belonged to the boy Carlo.

Cross-examined by Mr. Barry.—Witness did not know any Italian boys who obtained a livelihood in the manner of the boy Carlo.

Mary Paragalli (wife of the last witness) also knew the boy Carlo

Ferrari. Saw him last on Tuesday the 1st of November, in Oxford-street, at a quarter past 12 o'clock; he had a cage (like a squirrel cage) with two white mice in it. Did not speak to him; he wore a cap. Was shown a dead body at Covent-garden station-house on the 6th of November. Was positive that it was that of the boy Carlo.

Andrew Coller knew the boy Carlo by sight. Saw him in Oxford-street on Tuesday the 1st of November. On the following Monday saw a body at the station-house, Covent-garden, which he believes to have been that of Carlo; a cap was put into the witness' hands. To the best of his belief, it was the cap worn by the Italian boy when he met him in Oxford-street. Carlo had on him a blue coat and gray trousers: the trousers had a patch on the knee; a pair of trousers was here shown to witness. Believes them to be those worn by the boy Carlo. Is strengthened in his belief by the peculiarity of the stitching. Has not seen the trousers since the day he met the boy in Oxford-street.

John King, aged 10 years next Christmas, was acquainted with the nature of an oath. Lived near Nova Scotia Gardens. On the Thursday before Guy Fawkes's day, saw a boy standing at the corner of the gardens. The boy had a cage suspended by a string round his neck. Had a brown hairy cap; a cap was put into witness's hands. Believes the cap to be that worn by the boy. Knew it by the green facing.

Martha King, aged 11 years (sister of the last witness), gave evidence to precisely the same effect.

Rebecca Baylis lived at No. 1, Virginia-row, Bethnal-green. Her husband is a cabinet-maker. Remembers to have seen, on Thursday the 3d of November, an Italian boy standing close to the window of her residence. Saw a box suspended from his neck in the boy's arms. (The cap which had been shown to the preceding witnesses, was here shown to this witness.) Believes the cap to be the same as that worn by the Italian boy. In about a quarter of an hour after had occasion to go out; saw the Italian boy standing within two doors from Bishop's residence. (A coat and trousers were here shown to the witness.) The trousers appear to be like those worn by the boy—not so the jacket.

John Randal, labourer, lives in Bethnal-green, near Nova Scotia gardens. Remembers to have seen, on Thursday the 3d November, an Italian boy standing under the window of the Bird-cage public-house, Nova Scotia Gardens. The boy had a cage with two white mice in his arms. The cage had a box in one part; the other part went round like a squirrel-cage. The boy had on him a brown cap. This cap (here shown to witness) is like that worn by the boy.

Sarah Truby is wife of the landlord of the cottages 1, 2, and 3, in Nova Scotia-gardens. On the part of her husband, she let in July, 1830, the cottage No. 3, to Bishop's wife. Bishop and his wife lived there since; let the cottage No. 2 to the prisoner Williams in last July. Williams then went by the name of Head. Williams lived there for six or seven weeks; let the cottage since to a person

named Woodcock; there was a well in the garden attached to Bishop's cottage, with a passage to it from the other two cottages; there is a privy at the bottom of the garden of No. 3, which was not open to Nos. 1 and 2, but was to her (the witness's) own residence; has seen Williams frequently, since he left No. 2, in the prisoner Bishop's cottage.

William Woodcock, about 12 years of age, lived with his father at No. 2, Nova Scotia Gardens, next door to the prisoner Bishop's residence. Has seen Williams and his wife frequently of late in Bishop's cottage; the last time he saw Williams there was a couple of day's before Guy Fawkes' day.

Abraham Keyman keeps the Feathers public-house, Bethnal-green. On Thursday night, the 3d of November, at about a quarter before 12, the prisoner Bishop, accompanied by a man in appearance like the prisoner Williams, came to his house and took with him half a gallon of beer and a quartern of rum; lent them a can to carry the beer; lives within two hundred yards of Bishop's residence; (a can was here shown witness) that was the can he lent Bishop.

William Woodcock went to reside at No. 2, Nova Scotia Gardens, next door to the prisoner Bishop's, on the 17th of October last; lived there till the prisoners were apprehended, but not since; had reason to believe that the prisoner Williams lived along with the prisoner Bishop; does not recollect to have ever seen the prisoner Bishop till he saw him at Bow-street, but saw Williams on two Sundays. On one of these occasions, witness was digging in the bottom of the garden attached to his residence, No. 2, when he was accosted by the prisoner Williams, and recommended not to dig in that part of the garden, but in another, which he pointed out. On the night of Guy Fawkes-day went to bed about half-past 9. Had been asleep about 4 hours, when he awoke, and heard a noise in the adjoining (Bishop's) cottage. He then roused himself completely from sleep, and distinctly heard the sound of three footsteps. He did not rise, because the noise was not in his own house. He heard a scuffle, which lasted for a couple of minutes, when all became silent. After the silence, and before he went again to sleep, he heard the side-entrance door to No. 3 open, and distinctly heard the steps of two persons run by his (the witness's) window. He also heard the footsteps of one person in No. 3 before the other two returned. There elapsed but about one minute between their going out and return. He then recognized the voice of the prisoner Williams. The partition wall between the cottages was about four inches thick.

On cross-examination, the witness said he had no particular reason for saying or believing that Williams lived with Bishop, other than that he heard it reported, and because he knew him to be his son-in-law. When he heard the scuffle, he did not rise, supposing it to be some family quarrel, with which he had no concern.

Anna Woodcock, wife of the last witness, gave evidence to the effect that the prisoner Williams was an inmate to Bishop's cottage.

Joseph Higgins (of the New Police) was sent to No. 3, Nova

Scotia Gardens, and on searching it, found a chisel and some tools. He then went to the prisoner May's lodgings, near the New Kent-road, and found these awls and screws, (here shown to the Jury.) On one of the awls he discovered drops of blood apparently fresh. He also found a pair of breeches, with marks of apparently fresh blood upon them.

Mr. Mills, the dentist, was here recalled for the purpose of examining the awl and tools found at the prisoner May's residence. They were such as would serve to extract teeth in the coarse manner in which those sold to him had evidently been extracted.

Joseph Higgins' examination resumed.—On the 19th of November he again went to Bishop's residence, accompanied by another policeman. They minutely searched the premises, and with an iron rod probed the garden in several places. The rod met with resistance in one part of the garden, and on digging, they discovered a jacket, a pair of trousers, and a small shirt; in another part, a blue coat, a drab-striped waistcoat, altered from a man's size so as to fit a boy, and a pair of trousers with the braces attached to them. The waistcoat had stains of blood on the collar and shoulders. They were buried about 12 inches under the surface, and were covered with cinders and ashes.

The clothes thus dug up were shewn to the jury. The trousers and coat sworn to by preceding witnesses, as like to those worn by the Italian boy, were part of them.

The evidence of this witness was corroborated by that of James Wadey, the police-officer who accompanied him in his search.

Edward Ward, a child aged 6½ years, was next called. He was previously to being sworn examined as to the nature of an oath. The child, with infantile simplicity, said that he knew it to be a very bad thing to tell a lie; that it was a great sin; and that he who would swear falsely would go to h—ll, to be burnt with brimstone and sulphur. He was then sworn. He stated that he lived with his father near to the Nova Scotia cottages. That a few days before Guy Fawkes' day, his mother having given him a half-holyday, he went to Bishop's cottage to play with Bishop's children, three in number: a boy older than himself, a little girl, and a boy about his own age. As a toy, Bishop's children produced a cage, which went round, and which contained two white mice. He never before saw either a cage or mice with Bishop's children. On his return home, he told his brother, who is much older than himself, all the circumstances.

John Ward, brother of the last witness, deposed to the fact of his young brother having told him that he had been playing at Bishop's cottage with Bishop's children, and that their toy was a cage containing two white mice, which went round and round.

Mr. James Corder (the vestry-clerk of Covent-garden) was apprised of the discovery of the body of an Italian boy at King's College, at five o'clock of the evening of the Saturday on which it was brought there. A coroner's inquest was held on the body, and proceedings instituted. At the inquest, the prisoner, Bishop

was examined, and was told that he was not called on to criminate himself, to be cautious in his answers, for that what fell from him would be taken down word for word, and might be used so as to affect his life. [Witness here read the declarations of the prisoners, Bishop, Williams, and May, as given at the coroner's inquest, to the following effect:—

"I dug the body out of the grave. The reason why I decline to say the grave I took it out of is, that there were two watchmen in the ground, and they intrusted me, and being men of family, I don't wish to 'deceive' them. I don't think I can say any thing more. I took it for sale to Guy's Hospital, and as they did not want it, I left it there all night and part of the next day, and then I removed it to the King's College. That is all I can say about it, I mean to say that this is the truth. I shall certainly keep it a secret where I got the body. I know nothing as to how it died."

"May said he wished to say what he knew, and would speak the truth. He then said his name was James May, and that he lived in Dorset-street, Newington. He went into the country on Sunday week, and returned on the evening of Wednesday, and went to Mr. Grainger's, in Webb-street, with a couple of subjects. On the following morning (Thursday) he removed them to Mr. Davis's at Guy's, and after receiving the money he went away to the Fortune of War, in Smithfield, and staid there about two or three hours. Between four and five o'clock, to the best of his recollection, he went to Nag's-head-court, Golden-lane, and there he stopped with a female until between eleven and twelve o'clock the next day (Friday). From Golden-lane he went to the Fortune of War again, and stopped drinking there until six o'clock or half-past. Williams and Bishop both came in there, and asked him if he would 'stand any thing' to drink, which he did. Bishop then called him out, and asked him where he could get the best price for 'things.' He told him where he had sold two, meaning Guy's, and he (Bishop) then told him that he had got a good subject, and had been offered eight guineas for it. He (May) replied, that he could get more for it, and then Bishop said, that all he could get over nine guineas he might have for himself. He agreed to it, and they went from thence to the Old Bailey, and had some tea at the watering house there, leaving Williams at the Fortune of War. After tea, they called a chariot off the stand, and drove to Bishop's house. When there, Bishop showed him the lad in a box or trunk. He (May) then put it into a sack, and brought it to the chariot, and conveyed it to Mr. Davis's, at Guy's. Mr. Davis said, 'You know, John, I cannot take it; because I took two of you yesterday, and I have not got names enough down for one, or I would take it.' He (May) then asked him if he could leave the body there that night, and he said he might. Bishop then desired Mr. Davis not to let any person have it, as it was his subject; but to deliver it to his own self. He (May) also told Mr. Davis not to let the body go without him, or he should be money out of pocket. May then went on to say that he went to his own house and slept there that night,

and the next moning he went to Guy's, and Bishop and Shields came in with a hamper, which was taken to King's College, where he was taken into custody."

"John Williams stated, that in the first place he met Bishop on last Saturday morning (November 5) in Long-lane, Smithfield, and asked him where he was going. He said he was going to the King's College. They then went into the Fortune of War public-house, and after that Bishop went to Guy's Hospital, and then to the King's College. May and the porter met them against the gate. Bishop went in, and he (Williams) asked him to let him go in with him. That was all he had got to say, except that a porter took a basket from the Fortune of War to Guy's Hospital, and he (Williams) helped him part of the way with it."

William D. Burnaby (magistrate's clerk at Bow-street) was present at the examination of the prisoners at Bow-street, and remembers when May was examined as to the use of the awl found at his residence, he stated that "that was the instrument he usually employed to punch out the teeth from dead bodies."

John Kirkman (of the new police) was at the station-house, Covent Garden, when the inquest was held on the body of the Italian boy. Behind where the prisoners sat was a printed bill relating to the transaction. On seeing it, Bishop said in a low tone of voice to prisoner May, "It was the blood that sold us;" and looking at the bill again, said aloud, "The marks of violence were only breakings out on the skin."

Mr. Thomas (the superintendent of police) deposed, that on examining the body of the boy it appeared to him that there were marks on the left arm as if from the violent compression of fingers, and there was dirt on the chest. He also saw on the neck, from the forehead to the breast, the traces of blood but clumsily wiped away.

Mr. Adolphus stated that this was the case of the prosecution.

The prisoners were then called upon for their defence.

Mr. Curwood, on the part of Williams, said he felt it to be his duty to object to that person's being further proceeded with under the present indictment. That indictment distinctly charged Williams with being a principal in the murder, and he appealed to the Court whether the evidence at all went to bear out the indictment, so far as it applied to that prisoner. It might be that the evidence would go to show that he was an accessory after the crime, but that was quite another question from the present indictment, which distinctly charged him with being a principal.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal could not admit the force of he learned counsel's objection. It would be for the jury to determine not only the fact of guilt or innocence, but the degrees of both.

Mr. Curwood bowed to the decision of the Court, and only performed what he conceived to be his duty in urging the objection.

John Davis was then re-called for the purpose of showing that he had very recently purchased two subjects from the prisoner May. He brought them the day before the date of the murder.

The Court then informed the prisoners, that if they wished to

address any observations to the jury on the evidence just given against them, that that was the time.

Three written defences were then read by the officer of the Court.

The prisoner Bishop in his defence, stated that he was thirty-three years of age, and had followed the occupation of carrier till the last five years, during which he had occasionally obtained a livelihood by supplying surgeons with subjects. He most solemnly declared that he had never disposed of any body that had not died a natural death. He had been in the habit of obtaining bodies from workhouses, with their clothes on, so that he could have no difficulty in procuring them after a natural death. The statement then went on to describe the localities of the prisoner's residence, in order to show that they admitted of great facilities of ingress and egress, to all persons resident in the neighbourhood. His garden and premises were open to them, and theirs to him. With respect to the clothes found in his garden, he knew nothing. As to the cap, he should be able to prove that it was bought by his wife from a woman named Dodswell, who resided in Old Hoxton Town. The green cape he sewed on himself. The prisoner called upon the jury to divest their minds of all undue prejudices, and judge his case by the evidence alone. By so doing, they would be discharging their duty, and would acquit him of the crime then charged against him. In conclusion, the prisoner declared that neither Williams nor May knew how he procured the body.

Williams' defence briefly stated, that he had never been engaged in the calling of a resurrectionist; and had only, by accident, accompanied Bishop on the occasion of the sale of the Italian boy's body.

May, in his defence, admitted that, for the last six years, he had followed the occupation of supplying the medical schools with anatomical subjects; but disclaimed ever having had any thing to do with the sale of bodies which had not died a natural death. The remainder of his defence was a recapitulation of his declaration at the coroner's inquest, to the effect that he had accidentally met with Bishop at the Fortune of War public-house, on the Friday on which the body was taken for sale to Guy's Hospital.

Rosina Carpenter, on behalf of the prisoner May, deposed, that she lived at Macbeth-court, Golden-lane; that she was acquainted with May for the last 14 or 15 years; that May came to her between four and five o'clock on Thursday the 3d of November, and stayed with her till twelve o'clock next day.

On cross-examination, the witness stated, that she had slept several nights with the prisoner May before the 3d of November, and that nobody saw them together on that occasion.

Sarah Truby was re-called, in order to shew that she had never at anytime seen white mice in Bishop's possession.

The prisoner Bishop.—What, did you never see any?

Witness.—No, never.

Bishop.—Not about six months ago? Don't you recollect your cat having killed some in my garden?

Witness.—Never.

Mrs. Mary Dodswell lived at 26, Hoxton Old Town; kept a second-hand clothes and sale shop; knew the prisoner Bishop's wife; sold a cap to her about two years ago; the cap was a cloth one, with a black leather cape. [The cap found at Bishop's, and alleged to have been that worn by the Italian boy, was a brown hair one, with green leather front.]

The prisoner Bishop.—Mrs. Dodswell, don't you recollect your having sold my wife two caps at the same time?

Witness.—No, I sold but one.

On behalf of the prisoner May, Mary Ann Hall and Jane Lewis were examined, in order to show that they lived in the same street with May, and that the appearance of blood on his clothes was wholly owing to an accident which happened to a jackdaw, and which was followed by the loss of blood.

Mr. Thomas (the police superintendent) here deposed, that he was inclined to believe, from the glutinous and fresh appearance of the blood on the prisoner May's clothes, that it was shed since his being taken into custody.

The Chief Justice then proceeded to recapitulate the evidence to the jury, first warning them of the justice of founding their decision on the evidence then adduced, without being influenced by statements made elsewhere. The indictment (he observed) contained two counts, one charging the prisoners at the bar with the murder of Carlo Ferrari, an Italian boy; the other with the murder of a boy, name unknown. The jury would learn from this circumstance, that it was by no means necessary that the name of the murdered party should be known, and that all that they need have to decide was, the fact itself. They accordingly would first direct their attention to the determining the fact whether the body which the prisoners had proffered for sale had come by a natural death or not; and next, whether, if they were of opinion that he had not, the prisoners were the murderers, and to what degree they were implicated. With respect to the first point, he thought they would experience but little trouble after the explicit evidence of the medical gentlemen who had been that day examined, and whose conduct it was but justice to say was an honourable rebuke to any calumnious imputations on the medical profession to which the present case may have given birth. The learned Judge then went through the evidence with the most pains-taking minuteness, commenting on those points which, in his mind, would enable the jury to determine on the guilt of the prisoners, and their probable share in the perpetration of the crime. The jury had heard evidence which traced the Italian boy close to the premises of Bishop at 12 o'clock on the 3d of Nov., on the night of which it was probable the murder was committed. They had evidence also to show that on that night a scuffle took place in Bishop's cottage, in which Williams' voice was discernable. The evidence, however, to show that May was present, or participated in the actual offence, was by no means decisive; so that the jury would have to determine how far he was, or was not, a principal or accessory. It might be that they would arrive at the conclusion that Bishop alone,

or Bishop and Williams were the criminals, and in such case they would find a verdict of acquittal for May; or it might be, that they would find that all three were equally guilty; or that they were guilty, but not in an equal degree. Their verdict would be according to their decision on this point, rendering it incumbent on them to cautiously weigh those parts of the evidence which bore particularly on Bishop and Williams, and on the other prisoner. He left it to their unbiassed judgment to find according to the evidence which had been submitted to them.

At eight o'clock, the jury returned to consider their verdict, and the prisoners were removed from the bar, and taken out of court. The interval between that and the return of the jury was a period of intense anxiety to every one in the court; and, as usual on such occasions, there were various conjectures hazarded as to what would be the verdict as to all the prisoners. That a verdict of *guilty* would be returned against two of the prisoners, namely, Bishop and Williams, none who heard the evidence, and the summing up of the learned judge, could entertain any rational doubt; but the same confident opinion by no means existed with respect to the fate of the prisoner May. The general opinion, as far as we could judge from what was passing around us, was, that the circumstantial proof not being in his case so strong as it was in that of his fellow-prisoners, the jury would acquit him; but still there were many who thought the proof of a participation in the murder clear and perfect as to all the parties.

These conjectures and speculations were put an end to by the return of the jury at half-past eight o'clock.

The most death-like silence now prevailed through the court, interrupted only by a slight buz on the re-introduction of the prisoners.

Every eye was now fixed upon them; but though their appearance and manner had undergone a considerable change from what they exhibited at being first placed at the bar, and during the greater part of the trial, they did not seem conscious of the additional interest which their presence at this moment excited. They scarcely raised their eyes as they entered beyond a glance at the jury box.

Bishop advanced to the bar with a heavy step, and with rather a slight bend of the body; his arms hung closely down, and it seemed a kind of relief to him, when he took his place, to rest his hand on the board before him. His appearance, when he got in front, was that of a man who had been for some time labouring under the most intense mental agony, which had brought on a kind of lethargic stupor. His eye was sunk and glassy; his nose drawn and pinched; the jaw fallen, and, of course, the mouth open; but occasionally the mouth closed, the lips became compressed, and the shoulders and chest raised, as if he was struggling to repress some violent emotion. After a few efforts of this kind, he became apparently calm, and frequently glanced his eye towards the bench and the jury box; but this was done without once raising his head. His face had that pallid blueish appearance which so often accompanies and betokens great mental suffering.

Williams came forward with a short quick step, and his whole manner was, we should say, the reverse of that of his companions in guilt. His face had undergone very little change, but in his eye and his manner there was a feverish anxiety which we did not observe during the trial. When he came in front and laid his hand on the bar, the rapid movement of his fingers on the board, the frequent shifting of the hand, sometimes letting it hang down for an instant by his side, then replacing it on the board, and then resting his side against the front of the dock, showed the perturbed state of his feelings. Once or twice he gave a glance round the bench and the bar, but after that he seldom took his eye from the jury box. May came forward with a more firm step than either of his fellow prisoners, but his look was that of a man who thought that all chance of life was lost. He seemed desponding; but there appeared that in his despondency which gave an air of—we could not call it daring, or even confidence—we should rather say, a physical power of endurance, which imparted to his whole manner a more firm bearing than that of the other prisoners. He was very pale, but his eye had not relaxed from that firmness which was observable in his glance throughout the whole of the trial.

Ordinary physiognomists, who (without having seen the prisoners) had read the accounts of their examinations at the police office, of their habits and mode of living, and the horrible atrocities with which there is no doubt they were familiar, would have been greatly disappointed in the appearance of all of them as they stood at the bar. There was nothing in the aspect of manner of any of them which betokened a predisposition to any thing like the outrage on humanity of which they stood convicted. Thurtell looked, as well as acted, the "bold-faced villain." Ings, and one or two others of the companions of Thistlewood, wore in their countenances almost as strongly as they showed in their deeds, the bold daring of the reckless desperado; but nothing of this kind could be traced in the face of any of the three who were convicted. There was something of heaviness in the aspect of Bishop, but altogether his countenance was mild. Williams had that kind of aspect with which men associate the idea of sharpness and cunning, and something of mischief, but nothing of the villain. May, who was the best looking of the three, had a countenance which most persons would consider open and manly. There was an air of firmness and determination about him, but neither in him nor his companions was there the slightest physiognomical trait of a murderer, according to the common notions on the subject. They were all those kind of vulgar men in appearance of which one sees hundreds every day, without being struck with any indication in them of good or evil disposition.

When the three prisoners were placed at the bar, the names of the jury were called over, and on being asked whether they had agreed to their verdict, they answered that they had. The question was then put to them, as to each of the prisoners, and they returned as their verdict, that John Bishop, Thomas Williams, *alias* Head, and James May, were severally *Guilty* of murder.

The verdict was received in Court with becoming silence, but in

a moment it was conveyed to the immense multitude assembled outside, who evinced their satisfaction at the result by loud and continued cheering and clapping of hands. To such an extent was this expression of the popular feeling carried, that the windows of the Court were obliged to be closed, in order that the voice of the Recorder might be heard in passing sentence.

The prisoners were then severally called upon to say why sentence of death and execution should not be pronounced upon them, but none of them said any thing.

The Recorder then proceeded to pass the awful sentence of death upon them; but was for some moments again interrupted by the renewed shouts of the populace from without. Silence having been restored, the learned Judge proceeded. He began by eulogizing the patient and diligent attention bestowed on their case by the jury, whose verdict was just recorded, and of that jury he might state, what he often had occasion to remark of juries in that box, that nothing but the most satisfactory evidence, and a conviction of the solemn obligation they owed to their Maker and to their country, could induce them to pronounce a verdict which was to consign some of their fellow countrymen to a disgraceful death. He fully concurred in the verdict they had pronounced, which was supported by the most conclusive evidence.

The prisoner Bishop.—By false evidence, my Lord.

The Learned Recorder went on; and addressing himself to the prisoners, observed, that he would not encroach by any lengthened remarks on the very short time that was to intervene between their sentence and their appearance in the presence of their Creator. A month had now elapsed since their first committal for this crime, and he hoped that that time had been employed by them in looking back on their past lives,—on the horrible agony which they had inflicted on the feelings of so many of their fellow-men,—and on the dreadful outrage on human nature, of which they were now convicted. But, however they might have spent the time past, he earnestly adjured them, by their hopes of mercy, to lose not an instant of the few hours which yet remained to them, in constant prayer to Almighty God for pardon through the merits of their Redeemer. After pointing out to them the spiritual assistance which would be afforded to them in prison, the learned judge concluded by passing upon each of them the sentence of the law, which was, that each of them be hanged on Monday morning, and their bodies be delivered over for dissection.

The prisoners heard the sentence as they had heard the verdict, without any visible alteration in their manner. They stood at the bar as if expecting that something more would be added. When ordered to be removed, May raised his voice, and, in a firm tone, said, "I am a murdered man, gentlemen, and that man (pointing to Bishop) knows it."

Williams said, "We are all murdered men." He then addressed himself to one or two of the witnesses at the side bar, and said, that before three months they would suffer for (as well as we could collect) the false evidence they had given against him.

Bishop made no observation, but retired from the bar even more absorbed by his awful situation than he had appeared before.

The prisoners were then removed, and in a short time after the crowd outside the court dispersed.

From a momentary forgetfulness on the part of the Recorder when passing sentence of death upon Bishop, Williams, and May, these wretches nearly escaped the additional judgment of dissection. The Recorder, in the usual manner, had ordered them to be hanged on Monday, and was passing on to the end of his address, "and the Lord have mercy upon your souls," when Mr. Justice Littledale whispered to the learned gentleman, who then stopped short in the concluding sentence, and ordered their bodies to be given up for dissection. We had been extremely sorry if these monsters had escaped that fate, after death, to which they had consigned the bodies of their sacrificed victims.

After the trial had concluded, and the judges, nobility, and other visitors, had retired to a private room, the Duke of Sussex (who had remained in Court the whole day, paying the most marked attention to the evidence) took occasion to express the gratification he had experienced at the manner in which the prosecution had been arranged and conducted. "I have (said his Royal Highness, addressing himself to the Lord Mayor) always made it a point of attending every trial of national interest that has occurred in the metropolis; and I have done so not only from a desire to become acquainted, as far as I could, with the laws of my country, and their practical application; but because, in the station I fill I feel it to be a sacred duty to take a personal interest in every thing calculated to effect the character or the security of the people of this country. I have never, my Lord Mayor, been present at such inquiries without increasing the admiration with which I regard the criminal jurisprudence of England; the most perfect, the most intelligent, and the most humane system that human ingenuity or wisdom ever devised. Upon the present occasion, whatever pain I may have felt at the sad necessity for taking away the lives of the wretched persons whose crimes have excited so powerfully the indignation of the public, I cannot help feeling proud of being the native of a country where such a sentiment of indignation has been universally evinced, and where such disinterested exertions have been made to expose and bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes, happily, I trust, rare amongst us. In what other part of the world, indeed, could such a scene be witnessed as that which we have this day contemplated. The judges of our land, the learned in our law, nobility, magistrates, merchants, medical professors, and individuals of every rank in society, anxiously devoting themselves, and co-operating in the one common object of redressing, as far as human power can do so, an injury inflicted upon a pauper child, wandering friendless and unknown in a foreign land. Seeing this, I am indeed proud of being

an Englishman, and prouder still to be a prince in such a country and of such a people."

It is impossible to describe the effect produced by the Royal Duke's eloquent address (of which we regret we can only give the above imperfect sketch) upon the numerous and distinguished auditory to whom it was addressed.

CONFESSIONS.

The following are copies of the Confessions of *Bishop* and *Williams*, as taken by the Under-Sheriff, and Mr. Wontner, the Governor of Newgate:

Newgate, Dec. 4, 1831.

I, JOHN BISHOP, do hereby declare and confess that the boy, supposed to be the Italian boy, was a Lincolnshire boy. I and Williams took him to my house about half-past ten o'clock on the Thursday night, the 3d of November, from the Bell, in Smithfield. He walked home with us. Williams promised to give him some work. Williams went with him from the Bell to the Old Bailey watering-house, whilst I went to the Fortune of War. Williams came from the Old Bailey watering-house to the Fortune of War for me, leaving the boy standing at the corner of a court in the Old Bailey. I went directly with Williams to the boy, and we walked then all three to Nova Scotia Gardens, taking a pint of stout at a public-house near Holloway-lane, Shoreditch, on our way, of which we gave the boy a part; we only stayed just to drink it, and walked on to my house, where we arrived at about eleven o'clock. My wife and children, and Mrs. Williams, were not gone to bed, so we put him in the privy, and told him to wait there for us. Williams went in and told them to go to bed, and I stayed in the garden. Williams came out directly, and we both walked out of the garden a little way to give time for the family getting to bed; we returned in about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, and listened outside at the window to ascertain whether the family were gone to bed. All was quiet, and we then went to the boy in the privy, and took him into the house; we lighted a candle, and gave the boy some bread and cheese, and, after he had eaten, we gave him a cupful of rum, with about half a small phial of laudanum in it.—(I had bought the rum the same evening at the Three Tuns, in Smithfield, and the laudanum also in small quantities at different shops.) There was no water or other liquid put in the cup with the rum and laudanum. The boy drank the contents of the cup directly in two draughts, and afterwards a little beer. In about ten

minutes he fell asleep on the chair on which he sat, and I removed him from the chair to the floor, and laid him on his side. We then went out and left him there. We had a quartern of gin and a pint of beer at the Feathers, near Shoreditch-church, and then went home again, having been away from the boy about twenty minutes. We found him asleep as we had left him. We took him directly—asleep and insensible—into the garden, and tied a cord to his feet to enable us to pull him up by, and I then took him in my arms, and let him slide from them headlong into the well in the garden, whilst Williams held the cord to prevent the body going altogether too low in the well. He was nearly wholly in the water of the well—his feet just above the surface. Williams fastened the other end of the cord round the paling, to prevent the body getting beyond our reach. The boy struggled a little with his arms and legs in the water, and the water bubbled for a minute. We waited till these symptoms were past, and then went in doors, and afterwards I think we went out, and walked down Shoreditch to occupy the time, and in about three quarters of an hour we returned and took him out of the well, by pulling him by the cord attached to his feet; we undressed him in the paved yard, rolled his clothes up, and buried them where they were found by the witness who produced them. We carried the boy into the wash-house, laid him on the floor, and covered him over with a bag. We left him there, and went and had some coffee in Old-street-road and then (a little before two in the morning of Friday) went back to my house. We immediately doubled the body up, and put it into a box, which we corded so that nobody might open it to see what was in it; and then went again, and had some more coffee at the same place in Old-street-road, where we staid a little while, and then went home to bed—both in the same house and to our own beds, as usual; we slept till about ten o'clock on Friday morning, when we got up, took breakfast together with the family, and then went both of us to Smithfield, to the Fortune of War; we had something to eat and drink there, and after we had been there about half an hour, May came in; I knew May, but had not seen him for about a fortnight before; he had some rum with me at the bar, Williams remaining in the tap-room; May and I went to the door, I had a smock-frock on, and May asked me where I had bought it; I told him "in Field-lane;" he said he wanted to buy one, and asked me to go with him; I went with him to Field-lane, where he bought a frock at the corner shop; we then went into a clothes shop in West-street to buy a pair of breeches, but May could not agree about the price. May was rather in liquor, and sent out for some rum, which we and the woman in the shop drank together; May said he would treat her, because he had given her a good deal of trouble for nothing. We then returned to the Fortune of War, and joined Williams, and had something more to drink; we waited there a short time, and then Williams and I went to the west-end of the town, leaving May at the Fortune of War.—Williams and I went to Mr. Tuson's, in Windmill-street, where I saw Mr. Tuson, and offered to sell him a subject—meaning the boy we had left at home. He said he had waited so long for a subject

which I had before undertaken to procure, that he had been obliged so buy one the day before. We went from there to Mr. Carpue's, in Dean-street, and offered it to him in the lecture-room with other gentlemen ; they asked me if it was fresh ; I told them, yes ; they told me to wait. I asked them ten guineas, and after waiting a little, a gentleman there said they would give eight guineas, which I agreed to take, and engaged to carry it there the next morning at ten o'clock. I and Williams then returned to the Fortune of War ; we found May in the tap-room, this was obout a quarter before four o'lcock in the afternoon ; we had something to drink again, and I called May out to the outside of the house, and asked what was the best price given for " things," He said he had sold two the day before for ten guineas each, I think. I told him I had a subject ; he asked what sort of one ; I said, a boy about fourteen years old, and that I had been offered eight guineas for it ; he said if it was his, he would not take it ; he could sell it where he sold his for more. I told him that all he could get above nine guineas he might have for himself ; we agreed to go presently and get a coach. I and May then went to the bar, had something more to drink, and then, leaving Williams at the Fortune of War, we went and tried to hire a cab in the Old Bailey ; the cab-man was at tea at the watering-house, and we went in and spoke to him abont a fare, and also had tea there ourselves. Whilst we were at tea, the cab-drive went away, and we found him gone from the stand when we came out ; we then went to Bridge-street, Blackfriars, and asked a coach-man if he would take such a fare as we wanted. He refused, and we then went to Farringdon-street, where we engaged a yellow chariot. I and May got in, drove to the Fortune of War, and Williams joining us by the George, in the Old Bailey, on our way.— At the Fortune of War we drank something again, and then (about six o'clock) we all three went in the chariot to Nova Scotia Gardens, we went into the wash-house, where I uncorded the trunk and shewed May the body. He asked, " how are the teeth ?" I said I had not looked at them. Williams went and fetched a brad-awl from the house, and May took it and forced the teeth out ; it is the constant practice to take the teeth out first, because if the body be lost, the teeth are saved ; after the teeth were taken out, we put the body in a bog and took it to the chariot ; May and I carried the body, and Williams got first into the coach, and then assisted in pulling the bodyin ; we all then drove off to Guy's Hospital, where we saw Mr. Davis, and offered to sell the body to him. He refused, saying that he had bought two the day before of May. I asked him to let us leave it there till the next morning ; he consented, and we put it in a little room, the door of which Mr. Davis locked.— Williams was, during this, left with the chariot. I told Mr. Davis not to let the subject go to any body unless I was there, for it belonged to me, and May also told him not to let it go unless he was present, or else he should be money out of pocket. I understood this to mean the money paid by May for our teas at the Old Bailey (about 4s) and the coach fare, which we had agreed with the coach-man should be 10s. May had no other interest or right to the

money to be obtained for the body, except for such payment, and for what he could get above nine guineas, as I had promised him.—May paid the coachman 11s. on our leaving the hospital, but, before we discharged the coach, May and I ran to Mr. Appleton, at Mr. Granger's school, leaving Williams with the coach. We offered the subject to Mr. Appleton, but he declined to buy it, and May and I then joined Williams, discharged the coach, and went to a public-house close by and had something to drink. After this we got into a coach in the Borough, and drove again to the Fortune of War, where we had something more to drink; this was about eight o'clock in the evening. We all three staid there about one hour. and then went out, got a coach in Smithfield, and went towards Old-street-road; stopped in Golden-lane with the coach, and drank something, and then on to Old-street. At the corner of Old-street (the Star corner) May got out of the coach, and said he was going home, and I and Williams drove to the corner of Union-street, Kingsland-road, where we got out and paid the coach fare out of money lent us by May, he having advanced to each of us 3s. We then walked home, and went to bed that night as usual. We had agreed with May on his leaving us, to meet him at Guy's Hospital at nine o'clock the next morning (Saturday). I and Williams went at eight o'clock on Saturday morning to the Fortune of War, where we met Shields, the porter, and engaged him to go with us over the water to carry a subject. I asked him to go to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for a hamper which I had seen there; he refused, and I fetched it myself. We had a pint of beer there, and I, and Williams, and Shields went to Guy's Hospital, Shields carrying the hamper. We met May there, Williams and Shields went to a public-house, whilst I and May went to Mr. Appleton, and offered him the subject again. He again refused to buy it, stating, that he did not want it. May and I then joined Shields and Williams, and had some drink, and then left them again, crossed the water in a boat to the King's College, where we inquired of Mr. Hill, the porter, if he wanted a subject; he said he was not particularly in want, but would speak to Mr. Partridge, the demonstrator. Mr. Partridge came, and asked what the subject was. May said, "a male subject." Mr. Partridge asked the price. May said, "twelve guineas." Mr. Partridge said he could not give so much, and went away. Mr. Hill asked us to stay a few minutes, whilst he went after Mr. Partridge, to speak to him again Hill returned, and said Mr. Partridge would give nine guineas.—May said he would be damned if it should go under ten guineas. He was in liquor, and on his moving a little way off, I took the opportunity of saying to Hill that he should come in at nine guineas. I told May, directly after, that I had sold it for nine guineas, and that I would out of it pay him what I had of him, and give him something besides. We then got into a cabriolet, and went back to Williams and Shields at the public-house, where all four had some beef-steaks and beer; and afterwards went to Guy's Hospital, packed the body in the hamper, and put it on to Shield's head-telling him to take it to the King's College, where we went, Williams and Shields walking, and I and May riding part of the way

in a cab. On reaching the King's College, we carried the body into the theatre, and then into a little room, where we took the body out. Mr. Hill looked at it, and asked what it died of. May answered that he did not know, and it did not concern him. Mr. Hill asked him how a cut, which was on the forehead, came. I told him that it was done by May throwing it out of the sack on the stones, which was the truth. Hill told us to remain in the other room, and he would bring in the money. We went into the other room and waited for some time, when Mr. Partridge came to us, and showed me a fifty-pound note, and said he must go and get it changed, for he had not sufficient money without, and he pulled out his purse, and counted three or four sovereigns. I said he might let us have that, and he could give us the remainder on Monday. He said no, he would rather pay it all together, and went away. We waited some time, when the police officers came, and took us into custody. "JOHN BISHOP."

"*Witness*, ROBT. ELLIS."

I declare that this statement is all true, and that it contains all the facts as far as I can recollect. May knew nothing of the murder, and I do not believe he suspected that I had got the body except in the usual way, and after the death of it. I always told him that I got it from the ground, and he never knew to the contrary until I confessed to Mr. Williams since the trial. I have known May as a body-snatcher four or five years, but I do not believe he ever obtained a body except in the common course of men in that calling, by stealing from the graves. I also confess that I and Williams were concerned in the murder of a female, whom I believe to have been since discovered to be Fanny Pigburn, on or about the 9th October last. I and Williams saw her sitting about eleven or twelve o'clock at night on the step of a door in Shoreditch, near the church. She had a child four or five years old with her on her lap. I asked why she was sitting there. She said she had no home to go to, for her landlord had turned her out into the street. I told her that she might go home with us, and sit by the fire all night; she said she would go with us, and she walked with us to my house in Nova Scotia Gardens, carrying her child with her. When we got there, we found the family a-bed, and we took the woman in and lighted a fire, by which we all sat down together; I went out for beer, and we all took of beer and rum (I had brought the rum from Smithfield in my pocket); the woman and her child laid down on some dirty linen on the floor, and I and Williams went to bed; about six o'clock next morning I and Williams told her to go away, and to meet us at the London Apprentice, in Old Street Road, at one o'clock; this was before our families were up; she met us again at one o'clock at the London Apprentice, without her child; we gave her some halfpence and beer, and desired her to meet us again at ten o'clock at night at the same place; after this, we bought rum and laudanum at different places, and at ten o'clock we met the woman again at the London Apprentice; she had no child with her; we drank three pints of beer between us there, and stayed there about an hour. We should have stayed there longer, but an old man came in, whom the woman

said she knew, and she said she did not like him to see her there with anybody; we therefore all went out; it rained hard, and we took shelter under a door-way in the Hackney-road for about half an hour. We then walked to Nova Scotia Gardens, and Williams and I led her into No. 2, an empty-house, adjoining my house. We had no light. Williams stepped out into the garden with the rum and laudanum, which I had handed to him; he there mixed them together in a half-pint bottle, and came into the house to me and the woman, and gave her the bottle to drink; she drank the whole at two or three draughts; there was a quartern of rum, and about half a phial of laudanum; she sat down on the step between two rooms in the house, and went off to sleep in about ten minutes. She was falling back; I caught her to save her fall, and she laid back on the floor. Then Williams and I went to a public house, got something to drink, and in about half an hour came back to the woman; we took her cloak off, tied a cord to her feet, carried her to the well in the garden and thrust her into it headlong; she struggled very little afterwards, and the water bubbled a little at the top; we fastened the cord to the pailings to prevent her going down beyond our reach, and left her and took a walk to Shoreditch and back in about half an hour; we left the woman in the well for this length of time that the rum and laudanum might run out of the body at the mouth; on our return we took her out of the well, cut her clothes off, put them down the privy of the empty house, carried the body into the wash-house of my own house where we doubled it up, and put it into a hair box, which we corded, and left it there. We did not go to bed, but went to Shields' house in Eagle-street, Red Lion-square and called him up; this was between four and five o'clock in the morning; we then went with Shields to a public-house near the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, and had some gin, and from thence to my house, where we went in and stayed a little while to wait the change of the police. I told Shields he was to carry that trunk to St. Thomas's Hospital. He asked if there was a woman in the house who could walk alongside of him, so that people might not take any notice. Williams called his wife up, and asked her to walk with Shields, and to take the hat-box which he gave her to carry. There was nothing in it, but it was tied up as if there were. We then put the box with the body on Shields' head, and went to the hospital, Shields and Mrs. Williams walking on one side the street, and I and Williams on the other. At St. Thomas's Hospital, I saw Mr. South's footman, and sent him up stairs to Mr. South to ask if he wanted a subject. The footman brought me word that his master wanted one, but could not give an answer till the next day, as he had not time to look at it. During this interview, Shields, Williams, and his wife were waiting at a public-house. I then went alone to Mr. Appleton, at Mr. Grainger's, and agreed to sell it to him for eight guineas, and afterwards I fetched it from St. Thomas's Hospital and took it to Mr. Appleton, who paid me 5*l.* then, and the rest on the following Monday. After receiving the 5*l.* I went to Shields and Williams and his wife, at the public-house, where I paid Shields 10s. for his trouble, and we then all went to the Flower Pot, in Bishopsgate, where we

had something to drink, and then went home. I never saw the woman's child after the first time before mentioned. She said she had left the child with a person she had taken some of her things to, before her landlord took her goods. The woman murdered did not tell us her name; she said her age was 35, I think, and that her husband, before he died, was a cabinet-maker. She was thin, rather tall, and very much marked with the small-pox. I also confess the murder of a boy, who told us his name was Cunningham. It was a fortnight after the murder of the woman. I and Williams found him sleeping about eleven or twelve o'clock at night, on Friday the 21st of October, as I think, under the pig-boards in the pig market in Smithfield. Williams awoke him, and asked him to come along with him (Williams), and the boy walked with Williams and me to my house in Nova Scotia Gardens. We took him into my house and gave him some warm beer, sweetened with sugar, with rum and laudanum in it. He drank two or three cups full, and then fell asleep in a little chair belonging to one of my children. We laid him on the floor, and went out for a little while and got something to drink, and then returned, carried the boy to the well, and threw him into it, in the same way as we had served the other boy and the woman. He died instantly in the well, and we left him there a little while to give time for the mixtures we had given him to run out of the body. We then took the body from the well, took off the clothes in the garden, and buried them there. The body we carried into the wash-house, and put it into the same box, and left it there till the next evening, when we got a porter to carry it with us to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where I sold it to Mr. Smith for eight guineas. This boy was about ten or eleven years old, said his mother lived in Kent-street, and that he had not been home for a twelvemonth and better. I solemnly declare that these are all the murders in which I have been concerned, or that I know any thing of; that I and Williams were alone concerned in these, and that no other person whatever knew any thing about either of them, and that I do not know whether there are others who practice the same mode of obtaining bodies for sale. I know nothing of any Italian boy, and was never concerned in, or knew of the murder of such a boy. There have been no white mice about my house for the last six months. My son, about eight months ago, bought two mice, and I made him a cage for them. It was flat with wires at the top. They lived about two months, and were killed, I think, by a cat in the garden, where they got out of the cage. They were frequently seen running in the garden, and used to hide in a hole under the privy. I and my wife and children saw one of them killed by a cat in the garden whilst we were at tea. Until the transactions before set forth, I never was concerned in obtaining a subject by destruction of the living. I have followed the course of obtaining a livelihood as a body-snatcher for twelve years, and have obtained and sold, I think, from 500 to 1,000 bodies; but I declare, before God, that they were all obtained after death, and that, with the above exceptions, I am ignorant of any murder for that or any other purpose.

Witness, Robert Ellis, Under-Sheriff. JOHN BISHOP.

I, THOMAS HEAD, *alias* WILLIAMS, now under sentence of death in Newgate, do solemnly confess and declare the foregoing statement and confession of John Bishop, which has been made in my presence, and since read over to me distinctly, is altogether true, so far as the same relates to me. I declare that I was never concerned in or privy to any other transaction of the like nature, that I never knew any thing of the murder of any other person whatever, that I was never a body-snatcher or concerned in the sale of any other body than the three murdered by Bishop and myself—that May was a stranger to me, and I had never seen him more than once or twice before Friday, the 4th of November last, and that May was wholly innocent and ignorant of any of those murders in which I was concerned, and for one of which I am about to suffer death.

Witness, R. Ellis. THOMAS HEAD.

Newgate, Dec. 4, 1831.

The above confessions taken literally from the prisoners, in our presence,

T. WOOD, R. ELLIS, Under-Sheriffs.

During the greater part of Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Cotton was in attendance upon the prisoners, and Mr. Baker also rendered his assistance in administering religious consolation to the unhappy men. About seven o'clock in the evening, the Rev. Mr. Williams arrived at Newgate, and remained with them about three hours. Williams exhibited a sullenness of demeanour, indicating a degree of insensibility that could not have been expected from a person in so awful a situation. Bishop, on the contrary, seemed sunk in despondency—literally horror-stricken. He repeatedly inquired, "Is there no hope for me of forgiveness from God?" The clergyman said he could not venture to give him an assurance of mercy; a man approaching the presence of his Maker with his hands stained with the blood of his fellow-creatures ought hardly to expect it. Bishop then said, "Surely, Sir, there is a hope of mercy for a repentant sinner! Was not the thief on the cross pardoned?" "Yes," replied Mr. W., "but he had no knowledge of our blessed Redeemer till that moment, but you have from your earliest days been taught to know Christ, and have rejected his precepts. Besides, your's cannot be called a true repentance, it is incomplete; your's is more the fear of human punishment, in consequence of your offence having been discovered, than the repentance of a Christian. The first step towards a true repentance is a full and open confession of your crimes. Still, I exhort you to pray with all the sincerity and fervour you are capable of, and as the mercy of God is unbounded, your prayers may obtain favour in his sight."

It will be perceived by the intelligent reader that the reverend gentleman endeavoured, by the above exhortation, to induce the unhappy man to make a clear conscience, as well for the eternal safety of the criminal's own soul as for the interests of human society.

The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, assisted by the City Marshals, Messrs. Brown and Cope, were busily engaged in adopting precautions to guard against the possibility of accident. All the officers of the various wards in the city were ordered to attend; and, besides the usual force of the city police, a large body of special constables were sworn in.

During Sunday afternoon, large groups of persons were congregated in various parts of the Old Bailey, discussing the offence of the culprits; towards night they increased, and at midnight a considerable number of persons appeared evidently intent upon remaining until the execution was over. As the morning advanced, the crowd increased, and at four o'clock many thousand persons had assembled. From that time it appeared as if half the inhabitants of the metropolis were winding their way toward the scene of death, and at the time of the execution the numbers exceeded all calculation. Every spot of ground, every nook was occupied; and the houses inside and out were crowded even to a dangerous extent.

The most intense anxiety were evinced by the more respectable portion of the public to witness the execution, and every window in the houses that could command even a partial view was let at exorbitant prices.

Bishop and Williams on Sunday afternoon parted with their wives for ever! The scene was truly affecting.

To endeavour to form any calculation as to the numbers of the populace that were congregated in front of Newgate and its neighbourhood would be a fruitless task. From one end of the Old Bailey to the other was densely crowded, and the streets in the neighbourhood, although not a glance could be had of the platform or the proceedings, were, from an early hour, rendered impassable by the throng of persons that were hurrying towards the scene of execution. Notwithstanding the many precautions that were taken by the city authorities to prevent accidents, we are sorry to say that many occurred, but, fortunately, no lives were lost. At the end of Giltspur-street, immediately opposite the Compter, a very heavy barrier was erected across the road for the purpose of counteracting the immense pressure of the mob, which in that direction extended to Smithfield.

THE EXECUTION.

Monday being the day appointed for the execution of the unhappy men, every precaution was taken by the civil authorities to prevent accidents, anticipating an immense assemblage of persons to witness the dreadful scene. At midnight, the workmen were employed in

placing the drop opposite the debtors' door of Newgate, and a large space around it was barricaded to keep off the crowd; the inside of that place was subsequently nearly filled with constables and marshalmen. Barricades were also fixed at stated distances across the road from Ludgate-hill to the place of execution, and from thence to Smithfield.

When the fatal drop was stationed in its usual place, it was observed that three chains were suspended from it. As soon as Mr. Wontner, the governor of Newgate, heard of it, he ordered an officer to remove one of them, May having been respited. This was done, and although it was then dark, it was instantly communicated throughout the vast assemblage, and a general cry of "May is respited" was uttered. The announcement did not seem to excite much surprise, although a few individuals expressed their disapprobation by yelling and hooting.

A strong body of the police, who were to be stationed near the drop, were unable to make their way through the crowd, and they were obliged to be admitted by passing through the gates leading to the Old Bailey Courts, and through the private passages to their station.

It had been previously arranged by the Sheriffs (Messrs. Cowan and Pirie) that in order to afford every possible accommodation for the reporters to the public press, very few individuals besides were to be admitted within the prison. The reporters were admitted at a very early hour, and are happy to have this opportunity of expressing their thanks to the Sheriffs, as well as to Mr. Wontner, the governor of Newgate, for the preference given to them.

The Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs arrived at about half-past seven o'clock, when they immediately proceeded to the cells in which the unhappy men were confined. After spending some time with them and the clergymen, the Rev. Dr. Cotton, the Rev. Mr. Russell, and the Rev. Theodore Williams, one of the culprits (Bishop) was brought into the press-room, attended by some of those gentlemen. He walked with a firm step, but seemed to be nearly insensible to every thing about him; during the process of pinioning, and taking off his neckcloth by the Sheriffs' officers, he never spoke, or moved a muscle, except once or twice he heaved heavily. Afterwards, he was handed to a seat at one side of the room, and the Rev. Mr. Williams, who has been unremitting in his attendance upon the unhappy men since their condemnation, sat down beside him, and engaged him earnestly in prayer. Bishop appeared to pay great attention to the pious exhortations of the worthy clergyman. All we could hear him say was, "I have told all."

His fellow-culprit, Williams, was then introduced by some of the Sheriffs' officers. This young man, who we believe was only 30 years of age, and appeared even younger than that, had evidently undergone a great alteration since his trial. His countenance, which was very fair, and denoting any thing but a cruel disposition, was now exceedingly pale, and at times suddenly flushed. He appeared to suffer much mental agony, and the tears were standing in his eyes; indeed he seemed so weak that he was partially supported by an of-

ficer, while he walked to the end of the press-room, and his whole frame seemed to be much convulsed. His sufferings seemed much increased while he was being pinioned; and during the process he turned to Mr. Sheriff Pirie and said, "I have made my peace with God—I deserve all I have got." Then to one of the Under-Sheriffs he said, "All I have told you, Sir, is true, every word of it." He then looked sadly towards his companion, Bishop, with tears streaming down his cheeks, exclaimed, "I have made my peace with God." He also spoke to the Rev. Mr. Williams, but in so low a tone of voice we could not collect what it was, but we heard him request the Rev. Gentleman to remember him to ——— (we did not hear the name). Mr. Williams implored him to tell all he knew; he replied that he had told all. Mr. W. asked him if there was any other murder with which he was connected, and he replied, "I have told you all, Sir; none whatever." The fervency with which he spoke these words induced the Rev. Gentleman to refrain from asking any more questions at that time. The melancholy procession then moved forward towards the Debtors'-door where the drop was placed, and melancholy indeed it seemed as it paced the long dreary and narrow passages of that vast building. On the way, one of the culprits, not seeing the Rev. Mr. Russell near him, expressed an anxious wish to see that gentleman again, and he was quickly by the side of the prisoners, and assisted in engaging them in prayer. Bishop ascended the drop first, with a faltering step, and the moment he was visible to the immense assemblage, the most astounding yells, hootings, and cheers, that we ever heard resounded through the immense crowd, and the uproar continued until the drop fell. The executioner placed the cap over his face, and fastened the fatal cord, the Rev. Mr. Cotton, the Rev. Mr. Russell, and Mr. Baker engaged him in prayer. Williams was next handed up, and the noise was if possible augmented until the drop fell, which very soon took place upon the signal of the Rev. Mr. Cotton, when the world closed upon them for ever. Bishop died without a struggle, but Williams was much convulsed for a few minutes.

According to law, the bodies of the miserable men were left suspended till nine o'clock, when they were cut down. The moment the executioner presented himself on the scaffold for that purpose, the mob, which was still very great, set up a continued yelling and other noises, in testimony of disgust and abhorrence of the miserable wretches. Immediately after, a small cart, that had been in waiting in the neighbourhood, drove up to the platform, and the bodies of the culprits were placed in it, covered with two sacks. The cart then moved on at a slow pace, followed by the Sheriffs and City Marshal, along Giltspur Street, to the house of Mr. Stone, No. 33, Hosier Lane, the vast crowd yelling and making other discordant sounds as they proceeded. On reaching Mr. Stone's house, it was with difficulty the bodies could be removed from the cart, the mob appearing anxious to get possession of them. The bodies were placed on a table, and in the presence of the Sheriffs, in conformity with their duty, an incision was made in their chests, after which they withdrew.

The bodies were removed on Monday night—Bishop to the King's College, and Williams to St. Bartholomew's, to be anatomized.

In consequence of one of the barriers in the direction towards Smithfield not being sufficiently strong, the moment the culprits were visible on the gallows the barrier was forced down, and a number of persons of both sexes fell with it. The screams of the females, and the confusion that ensued, were truly alarming. One female, of very respectable appearance, with her husband, were most dreadfully injured, the barrier having fallen upon their chests, and a number of others of the mob pressing upon them. A city constable was also under the barrier, which rested on his abdomen, and his cries were most deplorable. In this dreadful situation did the sufferers remain for some minutes. A cry of "stand back; for God's sake, stand back!" was raised, but all to no avail, and people in all directions were trampling upon each other.

At length some of the officers from the Compter came out, and with the assistance of several other officers, a space of ground was obtained, and the individuals were rescued from their perilous situation, and carried to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where they were promptly attended to by Mr. Birkett, the dresser to Mr. Vincent, the principal surgeon, who had been in attendance all night to receive any accident that might be brought in. Before nine o'clock, every bed in Colstan-ward was occupied by persons who had been injured at the moment the barrier gave way, and many of them most seriously so.

Thus have the miscreants forfeited their lives to the offended laws of their country. It is at all times dreadful to think of taking life from any human being, but every one must rejoice that these wretches have met with such condign punishment. If they were not the only ones who have been in the habit of carrying on the murderous system of "Burking," we would fain hope, that the execration which attended the awful execution of these culprits may have the effect of deterring others from the commission of a crime so un-English in its nature.

We have been enabled to collect a few historical facts relative to the previous lives and occupations of all three of the men, of which the following form the principal: It was well-known among the tribe of "body-snatchers," over their convivial cups, that Bishop was a rank coward, and never had the courage to manfully risk his life by entering a grave-yard, unless he was well satisfied the watchmen had just received their *regulars*. His forte altogether lay in the obtaining of the bodies by stealth or by stratagem out of private houses; his claiming, either through himself, his wife, or some employed friend, those persons who were unknown and unclaimed at inquests or at workhouses; his bribing the watchmen at parish bone-houses; and, though last, not least, his murderous alternative of "*Burking!*" Bishop, on one occasion, knew there was a corpse in a house in Old Street, and seeing "lodgings" posted in the window he took them, in the character of a journeymen carpenter, with a basket in his hand, and on the first night, he stole the body away. A similar, and an equally successful, stratagem he played off at Hoxton, as well as at several other places. He was, however, in one or two cases detected,

and suffered some confinement. At one time, he bribed, or rather agreed to buy six bodies, from two watchmen, that were in Shoreditch bone-house, and on settling with them before the removal of the bodies, he had not sufficient money to pay them. One of the watchmen was willing to take his word for the balance, but the other would not, and apprised the master of the workhouse of the facts, who sent for Armstrong, the officer at Worship Street, who lay in ambush for Bishop and his party. The watchman who confided in Bishop, seeing they were likely to be caught, by a preconcerted signal, while Bishop and his party were mounting the wall, cried out—"Hush, cut off the wall." The consequence was, Bishop and his party escaped. The public feeling entertained for Bishop since the development of the horrid deeds, particularly in the neighbourhood in which he resided, may be judged from the facts, that from that day the premises have been beset by crowds of persons of both sexes; the garden was entered, the gooseberry bushes were torn up by the roots, and a tree was completely stripped of its boughs, and the smallest particles of the branches carried away in triumph.

Williams was born at Highgate, and was apprenticed to a bricklayer; dissipation, however, led him to abandon his business and to become the associate of thieves. His conduct nearly ruined his mother; and after he had been repeatedly in custody on various charges of felony, about six years since he was apprehended in Shoe-lane, selling a copper which he had stolen, and was convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.—Subsequently, he was sent to the Penitentiary, which he left a few months since, and he then became a resurrectionist, and continued that horrid profession until apprehended. We understand he had only been married seven weeks previous to his apprehension. He was in custody not long since, charged with breaking into a house in a court situate near the Hackney-road, and stealing the corpse of a widow's son, a youth of sixteen or seventeen, who had died a day or two before. The poor woman had left her home for a short time only, and on her return found that the corpse had, in the meantime, been stolen. Some of the female neighbours then recollected that while they were standing in the court shortly before, a man passed them with a basket, containing something which smelt very offensive, and occasioned them to look particularly at the man, although they had no suspicion, until the alarm was given, that he was carrying off the corpse of the widow's son. A pursuit was immediately commenced, but without success. From the description given, however, a policeman apprehended Williams on the following morning, and he was identified by the females as the man whom they had seen near the house with a basket, as stated. No trace of the body, nor of the manner in which it had been disposed of, could be discovered, nor any further evidence obtained; and, after an examination before a magistrate, the prisoner was discharged upon recognizance.

James May is the natural son of a barrister, who formerly had chambers in the New Inn. His mother was a good-looking woman, and was a laundress in the chambers; she was particularly fond of

her son, and when he was about twelve years of age, she used to lead him about, fearful that any harm should come to him. He was placed at a boarding-school, and received a tolerable education; he wrote an excellent hand, and at the age of fourteen he was employed in a professional gentleman's office, at No. 10, in the New Inn; but he was always of a wild, roving disposition, and whenever he could get away from his duties he was associating with the worst of characters about Clare-market. This appeared to be his sole delight until he neglected the office altogether, and was consequently discharged. He had at the time some good friends, who felt an interest in his welfare, but nothing could induce him to break-off with his associates; and instead of remaining a clerk, which he was well adapted for, he took a liking to be a butcher. The first place he got was at Mr. Roberts', in Clare-market, with whom he lived some time; he afterwards lived with Mr. Price, in the same market, but he never remained long in one place. At last he took up the trade of a "body-snatcher," and in order to carry on the business with the greatest facility, took a lodging in one of the houses in Clement's-lane, Strand, the back of which looks into the burying-ground, situated in Portugal-street, at the rear of St. Clement Danes' workhouse. Here he commenced business, and was very successful, but like many others flushed by success, he could not keep his own secret, and would brag of the number of bodies he had got out of the burying-ground, at the back of his lodgings, of a night, and what sums he had sold them for. He at first made no secret of his profession, and considered it meritorious, till at last he found that he was detested and despised by every person. He then left that part of the town, and got acquainted with Bishop, and his associates. May was always considered a lively, interesting fellow, fond of jokes, and ready for any mischief, but his disposition was not naturally cruel; and no person who knew him a few years ago could believe that he would be the accessary to take away the life of the humblest individual. May's mother is dead, but we believe his father is still living.

The prisoners, Bishop and Williams, confessed on Saturday that all the deaths of the victims whom they sacrificed to the "interests of science," were effected in the manner we have already described, viz. by "hocussing" first, and then drowning or suffocating them in a well.

It further appears, that in the course of an hour after the death of their victim, they were accustomed to knock out the teeth from the scarcely cold body with a gimlet. Bishop says he never had an idea of murdering people for the sake of their bodies till he had read in the Papers the atrocities of Burke and his associates; and he adds that he does not doubt that the same course has been resorted to by almost every other resurrectionist.

Bishop, in the course of Saturday afternoon, admitted that he had been guilty of *five murders*. It was strongly reported that he had made a more full and complete confession to the Rev. Mr. Williams, which has since been confirmed by a Mr. Sewell, who states, that he has learned, from some of his brother magistrates, that Bi-

shop confessed on Sunday last, he had been concerned in SIXTY MURDERS! and would have confessed to *many more*, but for the interference of the Rev. Ordinary of Newgate*.

In consequence of the above confessions entirely acquitting May of any participation in the actual murder of the unfortunate victims of these wretches, and the solemn declarations from May of his innocence, the Rev. Mr. Williams and Mr. Wontner immediately waited upon Mr. Justice Littledale and Baron Vaughan, who had been present on the bench while the prisoners were tried by Mr. Chief Justice Tindal, and were still engaged in trying cases at the Old Bailey. On hearing the statements make by Mr. Wontner and the Rev. Mr. Williams, Baron Vaughan felt inclined to suggest to Chief Justice Tindal the propriety of recommending that a respite should be granted to May. Mr. Justice Littledale believed, on the contrary, that the verdict was correct in the case of May, as well as in those of Bishop and Williams, and that the law should take its course. The Rev. Mr. Williams and Mr. Wontner then waited upon Mr. Chief Justice Tindal at his residence, and upon communicating to him the statements which they had previously laid before Baron Vaughan and Mr. Justice Littledale, the Chief Justice said he would, as early as possible, see the Home Secretary on the subject. This learned Judge appeared to concur in opinion with Baron Vaughan. It was next ascertained that Lord Melbourne was not in town, but as a Cabinet Council was to be held at two o'clock on Sunday afternoon, no doubt was entertained that his lordship would attend officially, and that shortly previous to that hour the Chief Justice would have an opportunity of conferring with him on the facts of this extraordinary case.

During the whole of Saturday, the Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, and several other official persons were decidedly opposed to any mitigation of the punishment of May, and indeed to any delay of his execution; and it was expected that the applications that were being made in his behalf would be frustrated by the positive opinions and predilections of some influential individuals. But on Sunday morning the Sheriffs visited all three of the prisoners in succession, and the Under-Sheriffs, who are very intelligent men, were engaged between three and four hours in taking down the statements of the convicts; the consequence was, we understand, that the opinions of both Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs underwent a decided change, as to May being implicated in the crime of murder. They were consequently desirous that *his* sentence should be mitigated. The result of all these investigations was that yesterday afternoon, at half-past four o'clock, a respite during his Majesty's pleasure arrived at Newgate for May, and his sentence is commuted to transportation for life.

Shortly after the arrival of the respite at Newgate, Dr. Cotton and Mr. Wontner went to the room in which the three prisoners were confined for the day. The Rev. Gentleman opened the paper and began to read it aloud: the most anxious attention was paid to its contents by all the prisoners, but the interest manifested by May, who must

* Vide "The Times" of Saturday, Dec. 10.

have known that the fate of his miserable companions was sealed, but had felt that there was still hope for him, was quite painful to witness ; his agitation was dreadful ; but no sooner had Dr. Cotton repeated the words " that the execution of the sentence upon John May shall be respited during his Majesty's most gracious pleasure," than the poor wretch fell to the earth, as if struck by lightning ; his arms worked with the most frightful contortions, and four of the officers of the prison could with difficulty hold him ; his countenance assumed a livid paleness; the blood forsook his lips, his eyes appeared set, and pulsation at the heart could not be distinguished. All persons present thought that he could not possibly survive ; it was believed, indeed, that the warrant of mercy had proved his death-blow. Mr. Wontner and Dr. Cotton, who have of course witnessed many scenes of dreadful agitation during their experience among capital convicts, declare that they never before beheld any human being so fearfully affected. It was nearly a quarter of an hour before May was restored to the use of his faculties. At last, when recollection returned, he attempted to clasp his hands in the attitude of thanksgiving, but his limbs shook so violently that he found even that was impossible. His lips moved, but nothing but inarticulate sounds came from his tongue. The parties present soothed him with assurances that they knew what he meant to say, and with earnest entreaties that he would calm himself, and not attempt to speak. When restored to something like composure, May poured forth his gratitude to God, and his thanks to the humane gentlemen who had interested themselves in his behalf. He then explained that, when the reverend ordinary commenced reading the warrant, he thought that all hope was at anend —that the ceremony was to signify to him that he must die ; the sudden revulsion of feeling, when he heard the words we have quoted, caused him to swoon. He added, that on learning he was to be spared, he felt as if his heart had burst in his bosom. He declared most solemnly, now that he was out of jeopardy, as he had done before, that he had nothing to do with the murder for which he had been condemned to die. He had never been concerned, either directly or indirectly, in any murder ; but he acknowledged he had committed many sins for which the Almighty might have justly left him to suffer on this occasion. He hoped now to lead a better life, and to evince his gratitude to God by sincere repentance.

It will hardly be credited that Bishop and Williams beheld this awful scene with an indifference approaching to apathy. The dreadful agitation of their less guilty associate seemed to have no effect upon them, though it was remarked that the contortions of May must have brought to their recollection the struggles of some of their murdered victims.

Mr. Wontner now asked Bishop and Williams whether, as their companion was spared from death, they would still adhere to their previous declarations that he was an innocent man. They both replied, decidedly, in the affirmative. Mr. Wontner, in his efforts to ascertain the truth with regard to May, appeared at first to be daring the opinion of the public ; for the general feeling certainly was that

May deserved death as well as his associates; but no reasonable person can now entertain a doubt that May is at least innocent of the crime of murder, and therefore has Mr. Wontner, with his usual judgment and humanity, has done a service to the cause of justice, by exerting himself to rescue May from the fate that the other prisoners so richly merited.

Thus have we given the principal features, in every thing at all interesting to the Public, of the lives and occupations of the monsters, who, for the sake of a small pecuniary gain, have sacrificed so many of their fellow-creatures. Let us now draw a veil over their sins, and sincerely hope that the crime will be buried in oblivion, together with the subjects of this narrative, and be thought of only as a circumstance never more likely to transpire in this or any other country.

FINIS.

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